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Arab League head expected in Beirut

BEIRUT (AFP) — Arab League Secretary General Esmat Abdul Meguid is to visit Beirut this week to prepare a regional tour aimed at collecting \$500 million in Lebanese reconstruction aid, officials said here Tuesday.

Foreign Ministry officials said Dr. Abdul Meguid's visit week was arranged during a telephone conversation with Lebanese Foreign Minister Faris Boutros. The visit is to follow up an Arab League decision July 31 to donate \$500 million in aid for reconstruction and rebuilding Lebanon's army after an intense Israeli bombardment during the last week of July.

Each Arab League member's specific donations has not been worked out, and Lebanon announced Aug. 1 that Prime Minister Rafik Al Hariri would accompany Dr. Abdul Meguid on a regional tour to collect the aid.

Meanwhile fifty long trucks carrying cement left Damascus for Beirut Tuesday. The convoy, accompanied by police motorcycles with sirens blaring, was the first part of a Syrian donation of 100,000 tons of cement to Lebanon to aid the rebuilding of 120 villages destroyed in the Israeli attacks. Officials said three planes from Saudi Arabia landed at Beirut airport with 29 tonnes of medicine and equipment. Another 34 tonnes of medical supplies and food aboard two flights landed at the airport from Morocco and Italy.

Jordan Times

An independent Arab political newspaper published by the Jordan Press Foundation
جوردان تايمز يومية سياسية مستقلة المنشورة بالمؤسسة الصحفية الأردنية. الراي.

Mideast talks to resume in September

WASHINGTON (AFP) — A new round of bilateral Middle East peace talks will be held in Washington in the early part of September at the latest, a senior U.S. official said Tuesday. State Department spokesman Michael McCurry refused to confirm the date of Sept. 1 given by a senior Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) official in occupied Jerusalem.

(see page 2) Earlier in the day, saying simply that preparations were underway for a new round of talks in Washington at the end of August or in early September. He said the State Department had contacted the Israeli, Palestinian, Jordanian, Syrian and Lebanese participants to finalise a date. It was unlikely that Secretary of State Warren Christopher, who visited the Middle East last week in a bid to get the peace talks back on track (see page 2), would return to the region before the new round of talks, Mr. McCurry said.

Hassan Abdul Rahman, who represents the PLO in Canada and advises on the negotiations, said Tuesday that the talks would resume September 1. He did not say how long the 11th round would last. Israeli Radio reported Thursday that the talks were scheduled to go on for two weeks.

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Israel allows detainees to choose doctors

TEL AVIV (AFP) — The Israeli army will allow Palestinians in military jails to be examined by doctors of their choice, the association of Israeli-Palestinian Physicians for Human Rights said Tuesday. Until now, Palestinian detainees have been allowed examinations only by Israeli army doctors. The association's president, Niv Gordon, told AFP that the policy change followed a request by the association to the head of the military "administration" in the occupied territories.

Founder of Saudi group said detained

NICOSIA (AFP) — Saudi authorities have detained a founding member of a human rights group after the group demanded that the authorities release 21 of its detained members, the London-based Liberty Organisation said Tuesday. Liberty, a rights watchdog for the Muslim world, said "sources close to" the Saudi Committee for the Defence of Legitimate Rights (CDLR) reported Suleyman Al Rushudi, a founding CDLR member, had been whisked away when security forces searched his house at the weekend. Mr. Rushudi was one of more than 100 signatories to a petition handed in to the government last year demanding comprehensive and wide-scale reforms. He helped found the CDLR in May.

Kuwait seeks closer ties with China

KUWAIT (R) — Kuwait said Tuesday it was trying to establish closer relations with China in view of its position on the U.N. Security Council. "Kuwait seeks to have close relations with all countries, especially those with permanent membership of the U.N. Security Council. Among those is China," Defence Minister Sheikh Ali Al Sabah told Reuters. Sheikh Ali, whose attempt to sign defence pact with Beijing ran into unspecified difficulties last year, added: "Now there are presently communications with our friends in China to overcome those difficulties and obstacles."

Cholera outbreak in Djibouti kills 50

NAIROBI (R) — A cholera epidemic in the Red Sea state of Djibouti has killed at least 50 people over the last month, the International Charity Medecins sans Frontieres (MSF) said Tuesday. "More than 1,500 cases have been officially reported and at least 50 persons have died," said a statement from the Dutch branch of MSF (Doctors Without Borders). The charity said the worst-hit districts were those where tens of thousands of people, mainly Somali refugees and ethnic Afars, live in poor conditions of hygiene and sanitation. MSF said it was setting up health centres to cope with the outbreak.

Chad assembly urges end to curfew

N'DJAMENA (R) — Chad's interim parliament demanded Tuesday the military-led government lift a curfew imposed after President Idriss Deby's palace guard mowed down armed protesters in the capital. Parliament said it should have been consulted before security forces intervened. Hospital sources said Tuesday at least 66 people were killed and more than 190 wounded by bullets in Sunday's clashes. The government's death toll, issued on Monday, was 41. In its statement the parliament denounced "all acts of violence and condemns the government for using the Republican Guard, the elite guards of President Idriss Deby, to suppress the demonstrators." It demanded the release of at least 203 people it said were unjustly arrested Sunday.

Second Algerian journalist killed

ALGIERS (AFP) — A journalist working for the state-owned daily Algerie Actualite the assassin attacked near here late Monday by unidentified attackers, the newspaper announced Tuesday. Abdul Hamid Benmeni is the second journalist to have been killed in Algeria during the last week.

PLO officials say dispute over peace strategy is resolved

Demands for collective leadership and decision remain on the table

Combined agency dispatches

TUNIS — A dispute within the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) over Middle East peace tactics appeared to ease when three key negotiators agreed to stay on the job, senior PLO officials said Tuesday.

However, leaders of some PLO factions said they would continue pressing for more democracy in the leadership and decision-making of the organisation.

The three negotiators, Faisal Husseini, Hanan Ashrawi and Saeb Erekat, submitted their resignations in protest of a PLO document that would have delayed crucial issues in peace talks brokered by the United States, according to some PLO officials.

"It was a storm in a teacup," said Sakhr Abu Nizar, a central Committee Member of PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat's mainstream PLO faction Fatah, he said the dispute was over.

"Everything is fine, we had a very cordial discussion," said Mr. Abu Nizar, who helps oversee Palestinian participation in peace talks with Israel on behalf of Fatah.

"The resignation page has been turned and from now on Palestinian officials in Tunis and in the occupied territories will consult to avoid further problems," Nabil Kassis, deputy head of the delegation, said in occupied Jerusalem.

But the trio from the occupied territories had won assurances they would not be left in the dark in the future, said another Palestinian official, who asked not to be named.

"They agreed to remain in place when the PLO chairman promised not to take initiatives without consulting them," he said. "But they made it very clear that if they were put in the same position again they would resign immediately and for good."

Other PLO officials said the quarrel ran deep over such key issues as the future of Jerusalem, and sorting out the PLO's internal bureaucracy for dealing with the 21-month-old peace negotiations with Israel.

The three negotiators arrived in Tunis Sunday and have remained silent about the dispute. The telephone line to the PLO guest house where they were staying appeared to be disconnected.

PLO officials, speaking on condition of anonymity, said Mr. Arafat convinced the three to withdraw their resignations during a series of heated talks on Sunday and Monday.

The officials said Fatah Central Committee members were called in to help cool tempers after Mr. Arafat and the three negotiators had a furious row on Sunday.

Haider Abdul Shafi, the chief Palestinian negotiator in bilateral talks with Israel, said when he arrived in Tunis Monday night that the Palestinian leaders would have to grapple with the latest crisis and reach unified stand for peace talks.

He also said that he will press ahead with his demand for democratic reform in the PLO and a collective leadership for the organisation.

Most PLO senior officials and Palestinian negotiators were expected to continue meeting in Tunis in an attempt to map out a unified peace strategy.

There has been mounting pressure within the PLO for a more democratic leadership, and for Mr. Arafat's rivals in other PLO factions to have more of a say in decisions.

"All should have equal rights in the decision making process in the PLO," Tayseer Khalid, a senior official in the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine (DFLP), told the Tunisian newspaper Al Shourouq.

"The negotiators should not be dealt with as executive instruments only," he said about the dispute.

The quarrel was over a PLO draft document submitted to U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher during his trip to the Middle East last week, according to several Palestinian sources.

The Palestinian negotiating team reportedly rejected the draft because it delayed such crucial issues as a timetable for dealing with Jerusalem.

The negotiators amended the PLO draft to make it tougher, according to sources in occupied Jerusalem and "Xhnanin."

The key difference was that the Palestinian delegation demanded control over the occupied West Bank, the Gaza Strip and East Jerusalem during the interim stage of Palestinian autonomy.

The PLO was set to delay the Jerusalem issue until final negotiations in the future and to compromise on the legislative powers of the Palestinian entity, according to information available to the Jordan Times.

The delegation at first refused to present the PLO document to U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher and gave him their

Jordan celebrates anniversary of King's accession to the throne

AMMAN (Petra) — Jordan Wednesday celebrates the 41st anniversary of His Majesty King Hussein's accession to the throne.

On Aug. 11, 1952, the then 17-year-old prince became the King of Jordan, pursuing the march of the Great Arab Revolt, which his late grandfather Sharif Hussein Ben Ali launched against backwardness, colonialism and ignorance.

While celebrating the anniversary, Jordanians recall the King's untiring efforts to turn Jordan into a model democratic state and his sincere and dedicated efforts to achieve Arab solidarity, defend Arab causes, and liberate the Arab will and resolution from foreign hegemony.

King Hussein's wise and realistic policy has won him the admiration and appreciation of all and attracted the attention

of those who did not cherish Jordan's achievements during King Hussein's rule.

In 1989 King Hussein restored democratic life by ordering free, democratic parliamentary elections, nullifying laws which limit public freedoms, enacting laws enhancing the democratic march, and fostering political pluralism.

At the pan-Arab level, the King contributed effectively to the formation of the Arab Cooperation Council (ACC), which groups Jordan, Iraq, Egypt and Yemen.

The King's historic decision in July 1988 to sever legal and administrative ties with the occupied West Bank gave a new impetus to the Palestinian uprising, which Jordan fully supports.

It also constituted a turning point in the history of the Arab-Israeli conflict, since it



implied that both Israel and the United States should deal directly with the Palestinian people in the search of a solution to their problem.

On the occasion of the

anniversary, King Hussein received cables from Arab and Islamic heads of state, congratulating him and renouncing Jordan's great achievements during the King's rule.

They wished the King continued good health and happiness and the Jordanian people further progress and prosperity. The King also received congratulatory cables from senior government officials.

To mark the occasion, Prime Minister Abdul Salam Al Majali will inaugurate a national industrial exhibition to be held at Amman International Fair in Marj Al Hamam on Aug. 20. Taking part in the exhibition will be 99 Jordanian industries in addition to the Engineering Corps of the Armed Forces. The 10-day exhibition is being organised by Riman International Trade Company.

4 deputies launch push against dissolution of House

AMMAN (J.T.) — A number of former deputies issued a statement Tuesday strongly criticising the government for dissolving Parliament and sought wider support for their opposition to the measure.

The statement, signed so far by Laith Shubailat, Deeb Marji, Abdul Hafiz Allawi and Suleiman Arar — a former speaker of the Lower House — said:

"We the undersigned have been watching with deep concern the danger posed to the democratic process in Jordan, and we would like to give the following statement concerning the dangerous step taken by the government lately, namely the dissolution of the Lower House of Parliament, despite the advice given to the government to the contrary by people keen on maintaining the country's stability."

"These people, who included senators and deputies and others who have had assumed senior political and security positions as well as deputies and political personalities, no doubt represent the majority of the Jordanian citizens."

"First: The government's decision to dissolve parliament, although constitutional in appearance, violates the spirit of the Constitution."

"A. The House should be allowed to run its four year mandate according to Article 68 of the Constitution."

"B. Parliamentary elections normally take place in the four months that precede the end of the House's mandate, according to Article 68 of the Constitution, which says: 'Elections should be held within four months preceding the end of the House's mandate, but if any delay occurs the House remains in place until a new one has been elected.'"

"This of course runs contrary to what the government is trying to say, through its official and semi-official information services, to mislead people and making it appear that the dissolution of Parliament was a mere natural routine required by procedures before the elections."

"Second: The dissolution of Parliament took place in order to create a legislative vacuum in Jordan and enable the government to introduce its own version of the Election Law as well as to commit Jordan to the general framework of the agenda of talks between the Jordanian and Israeli sides to the peace process."

"Third: Protection of democracy requires preventing its course being tempered with. When they took the oath of office, the ministers vowed to safeguard the Constitution, committing themselves to respecting democracy on which this royal parliamentary system has been founded."

"Fourth: The government's disregard of the Lower of Parliament proves:

Nabulsi quashes rumours that dinar will be devalued

By Ziad Shelleh
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The Central Bank of Jordan (CBJ) has no intention whatsoever to devalue the Jordanian dinar, CBJ Governor Mohammad Saeed Al Nabulsi said Tuesday.

Addressing a press conference held at the CBJ, Dr. Nabulsi said that the CBJ's duty was to protect the Jordanian currency and ensure currency stability and provide protection for the Jordanian banks.

At the same time, Dr. Nabulsi said, the CBJ does not interfere in the way Jordanian banks invest their funds. "But it is our concern to ensure that the depositors' money is safe and that the banks continue to cater to the financial needs of the economic sectors of Jordan," he said.

Dr. Nabulsi said the CBJ had nothing to do with the operations of the Amman



Mohammad Saeed Al Nabulsi Financial Market (AFM) and was not influencing the stock market.

Dr. Nabulsi accused unnamed moneychangers of spreading ill-founded rumours that the CBJ was planning to devalue the dinar.

"The Jordanian economy is robust and the CBJ has sufficient foreign currency reserves to deal with the foreign debts and the deficit in the fiscal budget," Dr. Nabulsi said. "There is no justification for any devaluation."

The CBJ has no plans for interfering in the commercial banks' activities because such moves would only have negative consequences, he said.

Jordan's foreign debt, Dr. Nabulsi said, was the main concern of the CBJ over the past three months during which the CBJ was involved in issues related to negotiations with the London Club of commercial creditors.

He noted that an agreement was reached with the London Club two months ago on steps to be taken to deal with the foreign debts and an official CBJ team was leaving Tuesday for London to finalise a technical agreement in this matter.

Expressing hope that the negotiations would run smoothly, Dr. Nabulsi said he

Israelis happy with Lebanese measures

Combined agency dispatches

TEL AVIV — Israel Tuesday welcomed the deployment of hundreds of Lebanese troops into a U.N. zone facing its lines in South Lebanon but said it was too early to know whether their presence would deter resistance attacks.

Peres sees PLO turning into a 'political party'

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (AFP) — The Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) has no choice but to turn into a normal political party, dropping "terrorism," Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres said Tuesday.

"With time, the PLO will have no choice but to change from a terrorist organisation into a normal, unarmed political party, which has dropped armed struggle," Mr. Peres told Israeli Radio Tuesday.

But Mr. Peres rejected growing calls for direct talks with the PLO, amid Israeli press reports that secret contacts have been underway for several months.

"There is no need to talk to the PLO, there is a Palestinian delegation. For the time being we have to narrow differences, that is the main point," Mr. Peres said.

Senior PLO figures claimed Monday that direct negotiations could start in the coming weeks and that Israel was on the verge of recognising the PLO. Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin's spokesman dismissed such reports as nonsense.

However, Deputy Foreign Minister Yossi Beilin saw talks with the PLO as a possibility if it fulfilled unspecified conditions.

"If the PLO answers some conditions that we put ... it is not impossible that Israel will reconsider talking to the PLO," Mr. Beilin told CNN television.

Right-wing Likud Party opposition leader Benjamin Netanyahu charged that Israel was readying for direct dialogue with a group "whose aim is to destroy Israel."

An Arab-Israeli doctor, Ahmad Tibi, who has acted as an intermediary between Israel and the PLO in the past, told Israeli Radio that several ministers have met secretly with senior PLO figures recently, but he would not name them.

Mr. Rabin confirmed on Monday that he knew Environment

Minister Yossi Sarid recently met PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat's political advisor Nabil Shaath in Cairo in early July, the Haaretz newspaper reported.

Mr. Rabin told visiting American Jews that Mr. Sarid had not been acting in the name of the Israeli government, the daily said.

The Yediot Aharonot newspaper reported in mid-July that Mr. Peres had met secretly with PLO Executive Committee member Mahmoud Abbas, also in Cairo.

According to Israeli newspapers, the government has been negotiating secretly with the PLO for months, while talking at the same time at the Middle East peace talks to a Palestinian delegation from the occupied territories. But the delegation takes its orders from the PLO.

4 Palestinians sentenced

Four Palestinians convicted of kidnapping and killing an Israeli border policeman were jailed Tuesday for three life terms and 40 years each.

The court echoed to cries of "Allahu Akbar" from relatives of the four men after sentencing.

The alleged members of the Islamic Resistance Movement Hamas killed guard Nissim Toledano last December and went on to kill two policemen on March 30, the court heard.

Israel expelled 415 Palestinians to southern Lebanon on Dec. 17 and then at the end of March sealed off the occupied territories to staunch a wave of bloodshed.

The four were arrested on June 6 when it was allegedly revealed that they were only Hamas sympathisers acting without orders when they kidnapped Toledano. They were integrated into the fundamentalist network only after the kidnapping, security service officials said.

PLO official allowed to visit W. Bank, page 2

4 killed in Kabul shelling

ISLAMABAD (AFP) — At least four people were killed Tuesday and one injured as rockets and artillery shells fell on Kabul, Radio Kabul reported.

The broadcast, monitored here, said two rockets fired from the south of the city hit residential areas, also causing widespread property damage.

It said one person was killed and another injured in heavy shelling in another area of the city.

The radio did not say which faction launched the attack.

On Aug. 2, at least 14 civilians were wounded

On the Occasion of His Majesty King Hussein's accession to the Throne

ARAB BANK

has the honour to convey to HIS MAJESTY KING HUSSEIN its felicitations and most cordial wishes

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

Eng. Sabri Farah & Family

(Continued on page 10)

PLO official allowed to visit West Bank

SURDA, Occupied West Bank (AP) — Hasan Abdul Rahman, a prominent Palestinian Liberation Organisation (PLO) official, returned to his home village in the occupied West Bank and said Tuesday the visit was part of a thaw that he hoped would lead to direct PLO-Israeli contacts.

Mr. Abdul Rahman, political adviser based in Washington, D.C., said Israeli authorities allowed him into the West Bank from Jordan despite a law that outlaws membership in the organisation.

PLO officials have been banned in the past, and Mr. Abdul Rahman said his visit was one of a series of contacts that represented a "significant" change which he hoped would ultimately lead to direct PLO-Israeli talks.

"I believe it is significant although incomplete," he said. "It should lead to a major step and that is direct negotiations between the government of Israel and the leadership of the PLO."

Mr. Abdul Rahman, 49, said he made "special arrangements" with the Israelis to visit his mother, who was seriously ill. She died before he arrived, and Mr. Abdul Rahman visited her grave on his arrival Monday.

Rafi Ganzou, spokesman for the foreign ministry, said Mr. Abdul Rahman had been granted entry on "humanitarian grounds" as part of a policy of easing restrictions on family visits.

Israel says special force to guard Haram Al Sharif

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (AP) — Israeli police said Tuesday they were setting up a special force to guard Muslim, Christian and Jewish holy sites in the ancient walled City of Jerusalem.

The decision follows recommendations from an internal investigation into the October 1990 clash in which 17 Palestinians were killed in a confrontation with Israeli police near the Al Aqsa Mosque.

Israelis believe the hilltop compound, Haram Al Sharif, is the site of an ancient Jewish temple. The Western wall is adjacent to the mosque compound.

Jerusalem police spokesman Samuel Ben-Ruby said the special unit will replace civil guard and Israeli soldiers currently guarding the sites.

He said the recruits would undergo special training, including the instruction on the practices and beliefs of the three major religions to make them more sensitive to the needs of the worshippers.

Mr. Ben-Ruby said the unit will also be trained in crowd control, but "Rambos they won't be."

The unit was expected to be in place by this fall. Israeli border police will continue to patrol holy sites in the Old City, as well.

Policeman killed in Aswan

CAIRO (Agencies) — Suspected Muslim extremists killed a policeman in the southern town of Aswan in the third attack against police in as many days.

The attacks follow vows by extremists to avenge executions of fellow radicals convicted of shooting tourists, police, government officials and Christians.

The militants have carried out a campaign of violence since early 1992 aimed at overthrowing Egypt's secular government and installing strict Islamic rule.

In the latest incident, gunmen shot policeman Abdul Hamid Gad Al Rab Rizk Monday night in front of his house in Aswan, a major tourism centre 700 kilometres south of Cairo, an Interior Ministry statement said Tuesday.

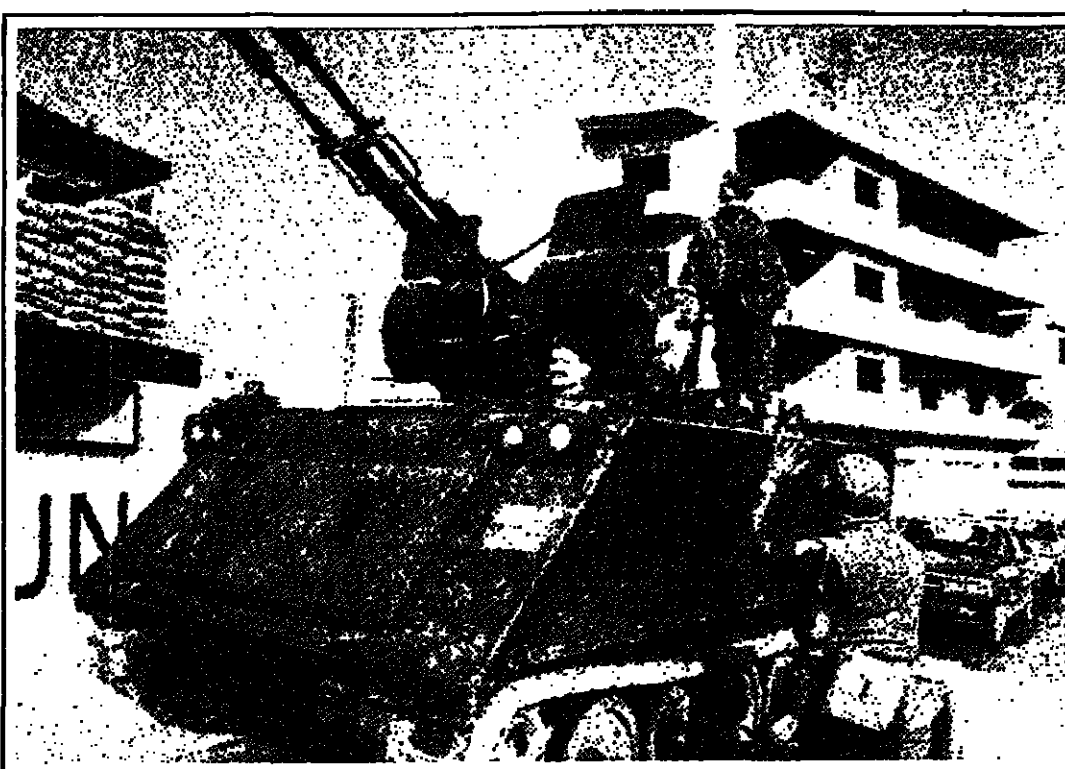
The assailants managed to escape in the three attacks across southern Egypt, which has been a

focus of the militants' campaign against the government.

The victims included a police guard shot down earlier Monday by six suspected radicals near Assiut, 320 kilometres south of Cairo. On Saturday, radicals ambushed the car of a senior police officer in Nag Hamadi, 460 kilometres south of Cairo, killing him, his driver and an aide.

A police official in Assiut said since Monday, 129 suspects have been rounded up in the south. They are being interrogated about possible involvement in the attacks.

Fifteen radicals have been hung in the past three months as the government sought to curb Muslim extremists violence. Over the past 19 months, 195 people have been killed in extremist attacks or in confrontations between the radicals and police.



A Lebanese M-113 armoured personnel carrier (APC) transports troops from the army's Fifth Brigade Tuesday as they pass a U.N. soldier at a checkpoint in Qana, southern Lebanon. Some 600 Lebanese troops and armoured vehicles began deploying in the area Monday (AFP photo)

Christopher satisfied with outcome of Mideast

WASHINGTON — Secretary of State Warren Christopher is encouraged by the results of his trip to the Middle East last week. The trip also gave him a new role — that of an "active intermediary" between Israel and Syria.

"The peace talks are back on track. I leave more encouraged than I expected to be when I came to the region," Mr. Christopher told a Damascus news conference on August 6, but he acknowledged that "many problems, many obstacles remain. We'll be pursuing this," he pledged.

Because the parties to the process all face tough political decisions on core issues — land, peace and security — the negotiations are getting more difficult, not easier as they move forward.

This is one of the reasons why Mr. Christopher took on the role he did last week, carrying messages — questions and answers — back and forth between Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin and Syrian President Hafez Al Assad. The secretary had two separate meetings with each of them.

Mr. Christopher told reporters Aug. 5 that his planned return to Syria was "just part of the probing process that's going on — answering questions and asking questions." It was a "significant development" that the United States "has been asked by the parties to transmit messages, to serve as an intermediary," he said.

In his discussions with Mr. Assad, "we agreed that the United States can play an important role as an active intermediary conveying ideas and helping develop formulations to overcome the gaps," the secretary said.

Mr. Christopher reported "there is some progress and many difficulties," but he said it was not the time to get into specifics or the substance of the negotiations.

"We did not set a date for the next round of talks," the secretary said, adding that while it was clear all the parties look forward to additional talks, "the problem is finding the right set of dates."

At an Aug. 9 news briefing, State Department spokesman Mike McCurry noted that the secretary has said "there's clearly a lot of work to do in the weeks and months ahead. But there's also a sense that the parties are now focusing on some of the core issues in a way that perhaps they haven't in the past, and we see that as encouraging."

However, another potential snag surfaced Aug. 9 with reports that Faisal Hussein, the leader of the Palestinian delegation that has been negotiating with Israel



Warren Christopher

on interim self-government arrangements for the occupied territories, and two of his closest associates, were planning to resign.

Mr. McCurry pointed out there have been "conflicting reports about their status within the delegation," and said he would leave it up to the Palestinians themselves to discuss the issue.

"Clearly, as these discussions between the Palestinians and Israel move into a phase in which they are dealing with some very difficult questions, they are having many internal discussions of their own about the tough, hard choices that must be made."

As a result of Mr. Christopher's trip to the region last week, discussions are under way with the parties about how best to resume the conversations, Mr. McCurry said, adding that "Clearly we would like to see the dialogue continue."

He said it is important "to build on" the "fruitful discussions" the secretary had last week. "We just have not made a decision how best to proceed," Mr. McCurry said there were "no current plans" for Dennis Ross, the special U.S. coordinator for the Middle East peace process, to return to the region, and Christopher will not return before autumn at the earliest.

It's also not clear whether there will be a new Washington round of face-to-face negotiations between Israel and its Arab neighbours — Syria, Lebanon and Jordan — and a continuation of the Palestinian-Israeli dialogue.

Ten rounds of talks have been held since the peace process was launched at the Madrid conference in October 1991.

Mr. McCurry said it was not accurate to say Mr. Christopher's trip had been focused on the Israeli-Syrian track. "Everywhere he went, including Damascus, there was strong interest in all of the parallel tracks that are under review," he said.

However, the secretary indicated to reporters during his trip that there is "a different type of feel" in the Israel-Syrian track

with Mr. Christopher serving as "an active intermediary" between Mr. Rabin and Mr. Assad.

Mr. Christopher was also pleased with the response of the Palestinian delegation during his swing through the Middle East. Before the last round of talks ended on July 1 in Washington, the United States provided Israel and the Palestinian with a working paper that the U.S. hoped the parties would develop into a declaration of principles relating to interim self-government authority. The Palestinians "did exactly what we hoped they would do, and that is to give us a line-by-line commentary or reformulation of the draft that we'd given them," the secretary noted Aug. 5.

As he left Israel Aug. 6, Mr. Christopher frankly told reporters he had come to the region "quite fearful and apprehensive that the peace process might have been derailed."

"I leave full of hope and enthusiasm that the process has been salvaged and back on track and that we can make some progress if we work carefully and conscientiously and deliberately over the next several months," he said.

In farewell remarks Aug. 6, Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres credited Mr. Christopher's trip with two achievements — bringing back to life the peace process, and giving it new momentum. "We hope to see you come back as soon as possible to continue the great work you started," he told the secretary.

In his briefing Monday Mr. McCurry was asked about the reports of three Palestinian delegation members are resigning and "what this meant to the U.S."

"Well, we have been in contact with a representative of one of the three, or with Hanan (Ashrawi), in particular, and we've seen — there have been some conflicting reports about the status, their status within the delegation itself, and I really should leave it up to them to discuss that."

"They are clearly — as these discussions between the Palestinians and Israel move into a phase in which they are dealing with some very difficult questions, they are having many internal discussions of their own about the tough, hard choices that must be made. I would best leave it up to the parties themselves to describe those decisions, because it clearly is an internal matter relating to how the Palestinians represent themselves and their delegation."

"But I wouldn't want to speculate about any changes because I think this is something that is very much under discussion among themselves at the moment."

U.S. says law requires Demjanjuk be barred

WASHINGTON (AP) — The U.S. government would have to violate the law to carry out a court order allowing John Demjanjuk into the country as he appeals his extradition to Israel for a Nazi war crimes trial, the Justice Department said Monday.

The government, seeking a rehearing before the full sixth circuit Court of Appeals in Cincinnati, said the issue was whether the court can order Attorney General Janet Reno to let the retired Cleveland autoworker reenter the United States even though Congress bars entry by anyone involved in Nazi war crimes.

"Demjanjuk's service as an SS guard at the Nazi camp at Treblinka renders him ineligible to enter the United States whether or not he was Ivan the terrible at Treblinka," the department said. "New documentary evidence confirms that Demjanjuk served as an SS guard in a unit whose sole purpose was the persecution and murder of Jews."

Since Congress has barred from the United States any alien who aided Nazi persecution, Demjanjuk "is statutorily prohibited from entering the United States," the department said in its appeal.

Therefore, it said, last Friday's order by a three-judge sixth circuit panel directing the government to admit Demjanjuk pending his appeal of his 1986 extradition to Israel "requires government officials to commit illegal acts."

His son-in-law, Ed Nishnic, accused the government of trying to derail Demjanjuk's appeal of his 1986 extradition. Oral arguments are scheduled Sept. 3.

"These are the very same people who... asked the courts and the American public to believe that Mr. Demjanjuk was Ivan the terrible, beyond a shadow of a doubt," Mr. Nishnic said from Cleveland. "Do they really expect the American public to believe them the second time around?"

Demjanjuk, 73, was stripped of his citizenship in 1981 for lying about his past on immigration papers. He was extradited to Israel to stand trial on charges that included being a guard called "Ivan the terrible" who ran the gas chambers at the World War II concentration camp in Treblinka, Poland.

He was convicted and sentenced to death in Israel before new evidence from the former Soviet Union cast doubt on his being "Ivan the terrible" and led the Israeli supreme court to overturn the conviction July 29.

Demjanjuk, meanwhile, has also denied that he served the Nazis at Treblinka, a training site for camp guards, and elsewhere.

The government said Demjanjuk has had enough opportunity to contest the Treblinka allegations and to establish his innocence, but instead stuck with an alibi of being a prisoner of war that "was discredited as historically impossible."

The government's case to strip Demjanjuk of his citizenship and order him deported included allegations that he also served at the Sobibor camp, but no court decision was made regarding Sobibor. The original judge said there was enough other evidence that he need not rule on the Sobibor charges.

However, the government says "substantial new evidence" showed that he served at Sobibor and other Nazi facilities. Keeping aliens out is legally easier than removing them once they are on U.S. territory.

The sixth circuit case pending in Cincinnati, which the court order said Demjanjuk should be here to help fight, stems from the new information from the former Soviet Union.

NEWS IN BRIEF

S. Arabia to sign chemical weapons ban

RIYADH (AFP) — Saudi Arabia will sign an international treaty banning chemical weapons, the government decided at a weekly cabinet meeting chaired by King Fahd late Monday. "Saudi Arabia approves the signing of the convention banning all chemical weapons, their development, production, stockpiling and use," a communiqué published at the meeting and quoted by the Saudi Press Agency (SPA) said. Most Arab countries, notably neighbours of Israel, decided last January not to sign the pact. The Jewish state is believed to have chemical as well as nuclear arms.

Britain welcomes sale of Warriors to Kuwait

LONDON (R) — The British government Monday welcomed a decision by Kuwait to buy Warrior armoured fighting vehicles like those used in the Gulf war with Iraq. Defence Secretary Malcolm Rifkind said in a statement that he hoped the contract would lead to more sales. At the request of the emirate for security reasons, the ministry, which announced the sale on Saturday, refused to say how many Warriors were being sold. No more details were available. The Warrior is made by GKN Defence in Telford, central England. Chairman and Chief Executive Sir David Lees said Prime Minister John Major had played a personal role in the negotiations over the sale. "The Warrior is a first class vehicle which was thoroughly battle-tested during the Gulf conflict and proved to be every bit as good as expected," Mr. Rifkind said.

78 indicted in Rushdie riots in Turkey

ANKARA (AP) — A prosecutor Monday indicted 78 people in the rampage by Muslim extremists last month that left 36 people dead. Prosecutors seek a death sentence for three suspects accused of setting fire to a hotel where many intellectuals and writers were staying in the central Anatolian city of Sivas, the semi-official Anatolia news agency said. The attack occurred after a Friday sermon when several thousand Muslims emerged from mosques and gathered in front of the hotel.

Lebanese boy dies in German fire

CLOPPENBURG (AFP) — A two-year-old Lebanese boy died Monday when a lamp caught fire in a house accommodating asylum seekers near this central German town, police announced. Five Lebanese children, aged 11 months to eight years, were alone in the house in Emstek when the fire broke out, after a lamp self-ignited in their parents' bedroom. From there it spread to other rooms. At the time of the accident their father was visiting his wife at a hospital in Oldenburg, where she was undergoing surgery, police said. The four other children were unharmed. The fire came after a string of arson attacks by German far-right extremists against homes accommodating asylum seekers.

Rabin intervenes in feud over burial

TEL AVIV (AP) — Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin Monday ordered the reburial of a fallen immigrant soldier interred at the edge of a military cemetery amid questions about whether he was Jewish. Mr. Rabin stepped in after right and left-wing parliament members protested the treatment given late Sgt. Lev Piskhov, 20, killed Friday in the occupied West Bank. Piskhov, was buried Sunday in the northern Jordan Valley town of Beit Shean. Newspapers said Rabin ordered him interred at the edge of the city military graveyard after learning that his mother wasn't Jewish. The military rabbinate denied involvement in the decision. "Rabin was very angry when he found out about it, and ordered the army to move the body to a different, appropriate burial site, with the family's consent," said Rabin spokesman Gad Ben-Ari. The family's response was not immediately reported.

Vatican wants 'balanced solution' to Libya crisis

VATICAN CITY (R) — The official Vatican newspaper Monday said a United Nations' ban on international flights to and from Libya were causing human suffering and urged the U.N. to find a more "balanced solution." The international community "has all but forgotten Libya's crisis," said the Osservatore Romano in its front-page editorial. "But Libya cannot forget... the harsh embargo on international flights which not only affects commerce but makes it impossible for sick people to go abroad for treatment," the paper said. U.N. officials are set to review sanctions against Libya on August 15. "One hopes for a speedy and balanced solution to this crisis which has done little to reduce the political tensions and public passions rocking the Islamic World," the Vatican newspaper said.

Mental problems plague immigrants to Israel

TEL AVIV (AFP) — A third of immigrants from the ex-Soviet Union living in Israel for more than 2.5 years suffer from mental distress, according to a health study published Tuesday. And the longer they are in the country the worse their mental health, according to the survey of nearly 1,000 immigrants over the age of 18. "The message is a hard one... uncertainty about the future," said Natan Sharansky, a former Soviet refusenik and immigrant who heads the Zionist Forum which commissioned the study. More than 500,000 immigrants have flooded into Israel since 1989, most of them from the former Soviet empire. Dr. Yigal Ginat, who led the survey, said it showed that immigrants who came here for a better future are now wracked by fears and many have lost hope. "You need to give these people hope. They don't know if they'll ever work in their professions again." The researchers' definition of distress included despair, depression, high anxiety, psychosomatic illnesses and perceptions of declining self-esteem.

Syrian radio, TV to broadcast by satellite

DAMASCUS (AFP) — Syrian television and radio programmes will be broadcast to Europe, Asia and Africa by mid-1996 under a deal signed between the government and a satellite company, the SANA news agency reported Tuesday. Under the deal, signed in Damascus Monday between the government and the Arab Organisation of Satellite Telecommunications (Arabsat), Syria will have a satellite channel on Arabsat. Radio and television broadcasts as well as news transmitted by SANA would be broadcast by the channel, the news agency said.

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

JORDAN TELEVISION	
Tel: 77311-19	
PROGRAMME TWO	
18:00	Les Histoires Chevalier de Grioux
19:00	News in French
19:15	Special Programme on the King's accession to the Throne
19:30	News in Arabic
20:00	News in Arabic
21:00	Night Court
21:30	Faces and Places
21:30	A Kind of Magic
22:00	News in English
22:30	Family Pictures
PRAYER TIMES	
04:27	Fajr
05:32	Sunrise/Dhuha
12:41	Dhuhr
16:21	Asr
19:30	Maghreb
20:55	Isha
CHURCHES	
St. Mary of Nazareth Church Switich, Tel. 8107-30	
Assemblies of God Church, Tel. 632785	
St. Joseph Church Tel. 624590	
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 673440	
De la Salle Church Tel. 661757	
Terzian Church Tel. 622366	
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 623541	
Anglican Church Tel. 630851, Tel. 628543	
Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 771331	
Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 772261	
St. Ephraim Church Tel. 771751	
Armenian International Church Tel. 632526	
Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel. 824528	
The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints Tel. 623824, 649532	
Church of Nazareth Tel. 675691	
WEATHER	
Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.	
Drop in temperatures will take place and winds will be westerly moderate to fresh. In Aqaba, winds will be northerly moderate and seas calm.	
Min/Max. temp.	
Amman 18 / 29	
Aqaba 25 / 37	
Deserts 16 / 33	
Jordan Valley 22 / 36	
Yesterday's high temperatures: Amman 30, Aqaba 38, Humidity readings: Amman 28 per cent, Aqaba 31 per cent.	

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS	
NIGHT DUTY	
AMMAN:	
Dr. Ghazi Abu Sheikh	752405
Dr. Yousef Al Faqih	756988
Dr. Fakhri Tayeh	885880
Dr. Abdul Wahab Awad	846070
Firas pharmacy	661912
Ferdows pharmacy	783536
Al Asoma pharmacy	657055
Natrouk pharmacy	623672
Al Salan pharmacy	636730
Yacoub pharmacy	644945
Shamsi pharmacy	631600
Natrouk pharmacy	623672
Najib pharmacy	847632
EMERGENCIES	
Food Control Centre	637111
Civil Defence Department	661111
First Defence Immediate	630341
Rescue Police	192, 621111, 637777
Fire Brigade	891228
Blood Bank	775121
Highway Police	843402
Traffic Police	896390
Public Security Department	63021
Hotel Complaints	605800
Water and Sewerage	661176
Complaints	897467
Amman Municipality	787111
Complaints	787111
Telephone Information (directory assistance)	121
Overseas Calls	010230
Central Amman Telephone	
Repairs	623101
Abdali Telephone Repairs	661101
Jordan Television	773111
Radio Jordan	774111
Water Authority	680100
Jordan Electricity Authority	815615
Electric Power Company	636381
RJ Flight Information	06-33220
HOSPITALS	
Queen Alia Intl. Airport	06-53200
AMMAN:	
Hassan Medical Centre	813812/32
Khalidi Maternity, J. Ama	644281/6
Khalidi Maternity, J. Ama	644281/2
Jabal Amman Maternity	642562
Malhas, J. Amman	631400
Palestine, Shamsi	664171/4
Shamsi Hospital	669131
University Hospital	845845
Al-Mustashir Hospital	667227/9
The Islamic, Abdali	666127/31
Al-Abli, Abdali	664164/6
Islamic, Al-Muhajirin	777101/3
Al-Bashir, J. Ashraf	775111/26
Army, J. Marika	891611/15
Queen Alia Hospital	6224050
Amal Hospital	674125
ZARQA:	
Zarqa Govt. Hospital	(09)983323
Zarqa National Hospital	(09)900560
Ibn Sina Hospital	(09)986732
Al-Hizma Modern Hospital	(09)999990
ARRIVALS	
Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)	
09:30	Dubai, Abu Dhabi (RJ)
09:50	Larnaca (RJ)
10:00	Jeddah (RJ)
11:00	Doha, Bahrain (RJ)
11:30	London (RJ)
12:30	New York, Amsterdam (RJ)
13:30	Brussels, Paris (RJ)
15:10	Montreal, Toronto (RJ)
15:40	Frankfurt, Rome (RJ)
19:40	Madrid, Geneva (RJ)
AMMAN:	
Princess Basma Hospital	(02)275535
Great Catholic Hospital	(02)272272
St. Al-Nabes Hospital	(02)471100

20:00	Rome (R)	10:45	Dubai (E)
Other Flights (Terminal 2)		12:30	Sana (Y)
05:45	Dubai (AZ)	13:00	Jeddah (S)
09:45	Dubai (EM)	14:15	Cairo (M)
11:30	Sana (Y)	15:00	Bahrain, Doha (G)
11:30	Jeddah (S)	18:45	Abu Dhabi, Karachi (K)
13:30	Cairo (M)		
17:30	Sharjah, Doha (S)		
18:25	Karachi, Damascus (P)		
20:45	Beirut (M)		
21:45	Larnaca (C)		
22:45	Vienna, Larnaca (O)		

MARKET PRICES:

Upper/lower price in Jds per kg

Apple	380/200
Apricot	440/340
Banana	680 / 680
Banana (Mukammal)	620 / 620
Beans	520 / 350
Cabbage	100 / 50
Carrot	280/220
Cauliflower	180 / 100
Cherry (red)	750/600
Cucumbers (large)	100 / 50
Cucumbers (small)	170 / 120
Eggplant	170 / 50
Garlic	700 / 500
Green Beans	300/250
Lemon	520 / 400
Marrow (large)	130 / 100
Marrow (small)	250 / 200
Mint	50
Onion	650/550
Onion (dry)	140 / 70
Orange	340/200
Peaches	600/500
Pepper (hot)	360 / 300
Pepper (sweet)	300 / 250
Potatoes	130 / 80
Tomato	150 / 100
Sweetcorn	240/150
Watermelon	140/60

DEPARTURES

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)

11:00	Rome (R)
11:15	Amsterdam, New York (R)
11:35	Berlin, London (R)
11:50	Tunis, Casablanca (R)
12:40	Istanbul (R)
20:30	Columbo (R)
21:00	Aqaba, Cairo (R)
21:05	Sanaa (R)
21:10	Riyadh (R)
21:40	New Delhi (R)
21:45	Aden (R)
22:00	Dhahran (R)
22:00	Calcutta, Bangkok (R)
22:30	Abu Dhabi, Dubai (R)

Other Flights (Terminal 2)

05:45	Beirut, Paris (A)
07:45	Rome (A)
09:15	Beirut (M)

Astronomers head for Wadi Rum to look out for meteor showers

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — A group of 40 members of the Jordanian Amateur Astronomers Society (JAAS), led by society President Khalid Qunsul is on its way to Wadi Rum where it plans to camp for five days and look out for the meteor showers expected this week.

The society said most of the showers should be seen in Jordan on the nights of Aug. 11 and 12, and Wadi Rum desert area was the ideal spot for sightings.

According to Mr. Qunsul, the meteors are expected to appear at altitudes ranging from 90 to 110 kilometres for several hours and should appear and disappear somewhat like fireworks, he added.

Noting that meteors could be seen falling at the rate of 90 per hour, Mr. Qunsul said the speed

of meteors does not exceed 60 kilometres per second and the falling matter will be moving counter to the rotation of the earth.

According to Khaled Tell, the society secretary general, the meteors were formed by the accumulation of dust and gases within the solar system.

They either fall and burn in streaks or could form a mass that would burn and fall in the form of a fire ball, said Mr. Tell.

Another society member, Marwan Shobaki, said that a similar phenomenon occurred 130 years ago and continued for nearly three weeks in August and September 1862.

According to Mr. Shobaki, neither the streaks of meteors nor the fireballs will reach the earth because they burn upon friction with the earth's atmosphere.

The society is attaching great importance to the phenomenon

which could entail interesting surprises for the astronomers, Mr. Qunsul said.

According to Meteorology Department Director Ali Abanda, many, but not all, the meteors may be visible in Jordan. He explained that the full moon expected at the time of their appearance around midnight will likely obscure the view.

Imad Mujahed, a Jordanian astronomer who was the first to predict the meteor showers, said the phenomenon was most probable because of the converging orbits of earth and the comet Swift which should result in the release of an immense amount of gases and dust that would shower the earth in the form of meteors.

Mr. Qunsul and the other members of the society plan to stay in Wadi Rum until Saturday because, they say, the meteor showers could continue for a week.

Jordan, Germany sign 6.3m mark technical aid pacts

AMMAN (Petra) — The German government will provide Jordan with technical aid worth more than six million German marks, under the terms of three agreements signed in Amman Tuesday.

The first agreement, worth two million marks, calls for the provision of equipment, consultancy services and expertise to help the Ministry of Agriculture produce seeds and vegetable plants.

The aid will also include the supply of several vehicles and laboratory materials for the project, and German experts will be available to train Jordanians to take their place later on.

Under the second agreement, the Ministry of Planning will receive 3.5 million marks worth of equipment, expert services and

training.

This aid will be channelled to the Ministry of Planning and the Ministry of Industry and Trade, as well as the Department of Statistics in order to help them establish a national data bank to provide accurate information to planners, decision-makers and researchers in the private and public sectors.

Under the terms of the third agreement Germany will provide 800,000 marks to finance consultancy services to the Jordan Valley Authority (JVA) and employ and train Jordanians to help the JVA carry out its projects.

The agreements were signed by Minister of Planning Ziad Fariz and German Ambassador to Jordan Heinrich Reiners Tuesday.



Minister of Planning Ziad Fariz and German Ambassador to Jordan Heinrich Reiners Tuesday sign three technical aid agreements (Petra photo)

NRA denies 'new oil well' discovered

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Natural Resources Authority (NRA) has denied reports that oil exploration work near the Dead Sea has yielded "a new oil well."

In a letter published in the front page of Al Ra'i newspaper Tuesday, NRA Director-General Mohammad Abu Ajamiyyeh said "the information" contained in a story carried by Al Ra'i the previous day under the headline "New oil well discovered," was "incorrect."

"The source to which the story was attributed was not official and not authorised to give statements," said the letter, which was published with no comment from Al Ra'i.

The letter added that "in fact, the NRA is digging an exploratory well in the Dead Sea area and work is under way at the site."



CHECHEN FOLKLORIC TROUPE TO PERFORM: To mark the 41st anniversary of His Majesty King Hussein's accession to the throne, the Chechen Sports Club in Zarqa is organising a folk performance for the benefit of the public Wednesday evening. The club said that the Chechen Folkloric Troupe will be presenting the show at the Zarqa Municipality National Park at 8 p.m. It said the event will include traditional dances, music and a short play.

Minister reviews trade ties with Bulgarian envoy

AMMAN (J.T.) — Minister of Industry and Trade Bassam Al Saket Tuesday urged Bulgaria to import more Jordanian phosphate and potash and increase the volume of its trade with the Kingdom.

Speaking at a meeting with the Bulgarian charge d'affaires in Amman, the minister discussed trade relations between the two countries and underlined the need for promoting industrial cooperation and Jordan's desire to export more of its national products to Bulgaria.

Jordan currently sells Bulgaria 60,000 tonnes of phosphate annually and is seeking to raise the quantity to 150,000 tonnes in

Doa'a to suggest creation of religious affairs council

By Elia Nasrallah
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The Arab Islamic Democratic Movement (Doa'a) plans to submit a proposal to the government suggesting the creation of a higher council for religious affairs in Jordan.

Such a council would contribute to the enhancement of Muslim-Christian relations at all levels and would help solve any problem pertaining to or stemming from such relationships, Doa'a member Marwan Sudah Sunday told the Jordan Times.

"We view the projected council as an independent body whose members could be appointed by

Royal Decree and group Christian as well as Muslim leaders who are concerned with bolstering religious ties in the country, Mr. Sudah said.

Doa'a envisages a council that will assume the task of restoring and refurbishing mosques as well as churches, spreading religious awareness among the public, promoting moral and religious ethics and fighting off materialism, he added.

Explaining that further terms of reference for such a council would be up to the government should it decide in favour of the council's establishment, Mr. Sudah said a detailed proposal to this effect will be available in the

next few days.

Mr. Sudah said the party secretary general, Yousef Abu Baker, was expected to submit the proposal to the government within two weeks.

The idea will also be put to the public and the heads of Christian communities in Jordan will also be consulted.

Doa'a, a political party licensed by the Ministry of Interior last May, groups Muslim and Christian members including women and seeks to reinforce the relationship between Muslims and Christians in the Kingdom, he said.

Mr. Sudah is one of the leading Christian members of Doa'a.

U.S. teachers gain valuable exposure to Arabic culture

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — A group of 25 American school teachers, who recently completed a five-week visit to Jordan to study Arabic and Islamic civilisation, were surprised to learn not only about similarities between Arab and American students, but also about differences in media reporting.

The teachers, coming from 15 different states after receiving intensive courses in Arabic for 15 months over three years, intend to share their Jordanian experience with their students by incorporating the knowledge they gained into their social studies and foreign language curricula.

Having visited different parts of the country as well as Syria and the Israeli-occupied West Bank, these educators said they hope to change the distorted image the students have of Arab countries and the Islamic civilisation.

"What we read about the region is totally different from what we experienced here," said Christine Allen, a social studies

teacher from Oregon. "Our visit to the region rendered our experience much more human."

Farid Cadara, co-director of the Arabic Language and Culture Institute at Ohio State University, stressed that the institute aims at continuously organising such courses in order to acquaint the teachers with major issues in the region, provide them with language skills and make them aware of the Arabic culture and civilisation.

He said this course, which includes the visit to the region for five weeks, will enable them to interview Palestinian and Jordanian students, as well as meet their Arab counterparts. Prof. Cadara said the experience revealed to them the commonalities of "problems and concerns that both sides face."

"Learning a language in isolation won't help students," Prof. Cadara said. "Going through this experience is of great benefit to students and teachers alike, giving more credibility to teachers and enhancing awareness among students of the issues in the region."

HOME NEWS IN BRIEF

King receives call from Arafat

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein Tuesday received a telephone call from Palestinian President Yasser Arafat during which the two leaders exchanged views on bilateral and regional issues, particularly the peace process. President Arafat expressed appreciation to the King for his great concern in serving the interests of the Palestinian and Jordanian peoples and the entire Arab nation.

Crown Prince visits PSD

AMMAN (Petra) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan Sunday called at the Public Security Department (PSD) where he met with the PSD Director Maj. Gen. Abdul Rahman Al Udwan.

Lawzi praises democratic march

AMMAN (Petra) — Speaker of the Upper House of Parliament Ahmad Al Lawzi Monday met with participants in the top-management course being held at the Institute of Public Administration (IPA). Mr. Lawzi reviewed Jordan's democratic march since the establishment of the transjordanian emirate. He noted that the current democratic process is the outcome of all the previous eras which Jordan has witnessed during the time of the late King Abdullah Ben Al Hussein and that of His Majesty King Hussein. At a meeting held at the Parliament, Mr. Lawzi reviewed the political situation in the Middle East and its effects on Jordan, as well as the challenges facing the Kingdom. He noted Jordan's intensive efforts to rally Arab folds and to restore the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people. The meeting was attended by the Parliament Secretary General Saleh Al Zu'bi and IPA Director Zuhair Al Kayed.

PSD graduates 32 women

AMMAN (Petra) — Deputy Commander of the Public Security Brigade Col. Talal Al Sadoun Tuesday attended the graduation of 32 policewomen who completed training in physical fitness self-defence, shooting and jumping from towers. Attending the graduation ceremony were the commander of the policewomen's division and senior public security officers.

Centre to train 850-900 students

SALT (Petra) — Ain Al Basha Vocational Training Centre will accept 850 to 900 students in various trades this year, according to the centre's director, Younis Khanfar. Mr. Khanfar pointed out that new trades have been created, including radio and television maintenance, leather industries, bakeries, printing and hairdressing.

Amman mayor inspects Nasr area

AMMAN (Petra) — Greater Amman Mayor Mamdouh Abbadi Tuesday stressed the importance of dialogue in identifying problems and concerns and selecting the best solutions for them. Dr. Abbadi was speaking at a meeting with citizens in Nasr during a tour he made to the area. He inspected the services offered by the municipality and the problems facing some neighbourhoods in the Greater Amman area. Dr. Abbadi was accompanied by senior municipality officials.

Japanese envoy to arrive for talks

AMMAN (Petra) — Director General of the Middle East and Africa Desk at the Japanese Foreign Ministry will arrive here Wednesday on a three-day visit to Jordan for talks with senior government officials on regional and international issues and bilateral cooperation.

Industrialists to review environmental problems

AMMAN (Petra) — Representatives of several major industrial companies will meet at the Amman Chamber of Industry Thursday to discuss industrial and environmental problems facing their companies and the prospect of finding solutions to them. The meeting, which will be headed by the director of the chamber, the directors of the companies, the director of the Research Department at the Royal Scientific Society and the chamber's advisor on environmental affairs, falls within the efforts to conduct a survey on the effect of industrial pollution on environment. The chamber's environment department periodically collects samples of industrial waste from factories to analyse them chemically and biologically and to offer advice to factory owners on means of reducing the effect of industrial pollutants.

WHAT'S GOING ON

EXHIBITIONS

- ★ Exhibition of paintings by Jordanian artist Bishara Najjar at Eshbilia Art Gallery, Amra Shopping Centre. The paintings depict Jordanian-Palestinian heritage, Jordanian antiquities, Arab Jerusalem, rural life and natural scenery.
- ★ Exhibition of a new collection of art works by Princess Wijdan Ali at The Gallery, Hotel Jordan Inter-Continental.
- ★ Exhibition entitled "Hashemite Paintings" by Jordanian artist Iyad Al Masri at the Royal Cultural Centre.
- ★ Exhibition of British archaeological projects in Jordan, organised by the British Institute in Amman for Archaeology and History, at the British Council.
- ★ Exhibition of paintings by 25 Jordanian artists at the Royal Cultural Centre.

FILM

- ★ Feature film entitled "The Pink Panther Strikes Again" at 7 p.m. at the British Council (99 minutes).

JERUSALEM FESTIVAL



- ★ Exhibition of paintings, posters, Palestinian costumes, books and other items on the holy city of Jerusalem at the Abdul Hameed Shoman Foundation.
- ★ Seminar, in Arabic, entitled "The Arab Culture and Dangers Inherent in Normalising Relations with Israel" at 6:30 p.m. at the Scientific and Cultural Centre of Abdul Hameed Shoman Foundation.

AL FUHEIS FESTIVAL

- ★ Exhibition of paintings, photographs, books and handicrafts at the Balka Art Gallery.
- ★ Seminar, in Arabic, entitled "The Memory of the Place in Art Works" at the Al Fuheis city's Cultural Forum Plaza at 6:30 p.m.
- ★ Slide show entitled "Mosaic in Jordan — Back to Life" by Franciscan Father Micheli Piccirillo and Dr. Basima Hamarneh at 7:45 p.m. at the Forum Plaza.
- ★ Arabic children's play entitled "Who Will Save Earth?" at Al Fuheis House Theatre at 11:30 p.m.
- ★ Concert by Jordanian artist Usama Jabbar at 9 p.m. at the Latin Church Theatre.



This year's grape season teems with a colourful variety (staff photo by Aynsley Floyd)

Opening Soon

Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published in English by the Jordan Press Foundation.
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The carnage in Balkans must stop

By Joseph Brodsky

NEW YORK — As America lies in its state-induced moral stupor, lots of people die violent deaths all over the place, particularly in the Balkans.

When it comes to externalising evil, few things can rival geography or, for that matter, history — that gold mine for both pundits and bandits.

What is happening now in the Balkans is very simple: It is a bloodbath. Terms such as Serbs, Croats, Bosnians mean absolutely nothing. Any other combination of vowels and consonants will amount to the same thing: killing people.

Neither religious distinctions — Orthodox, Catholic, Muslim — nor ethnic ones are of any consequence.

The former are forfeited with the first murder (for "Thou shalt not kill" is at least to any version of the Christian creed). As for the latter, all these people are what we in our parts define as Caucasians.

Evocations of history here are bare nonsense. Whenever one pulls the trigger in order to rectify history's mistake, one lies. For history makes no mistakes. Since it has no purpose. One always pulls the trigger out of self-interest and quotes history to avoid responsibility or pangs of conscience.

No man possesses sufficient retrospective ability to justify his deeds — murder especially — in extemporaneous categories, least of all a head of state.

Besides, the Balkan bloodshed is essentially a short-term project. Set in motion by the local heads of state, its main purpose is to keep them in power for as long as physically possible. For want of any binding issue (economic or ideological), it is prosecuted under the banner of a retroactive utopia called nationalism.

A regressive concept amounting to a flight both from the multi-national reality of the Balkans and the melting pot of the future Europe, nationalism boils down to settling old scores with one's neighbours.

The main attraction is that it is highly absorbing (physically and mentally), that is, it takes time and provides employment for a substantial portion of the male population.

For a head of state presiding over a ruined economy an active army with its low wages is god-sent: All he's got to do is provide it with an objective.

Given the Serbian troops' numerical and material superiority over their neighbours, one wonders why this objective wasn't achieved a year or two ago. The answer is that it is not in the interest of the involved heads of state.

Normally a bloodbath (especially if it is promoted to the status of war) is finite, which is to say it has a logical end at which the leader of a nation, or even a band of guerrillas, tries to arrive as speedily as possible. Then come reconstruction, free elections, a legislative process.

Now those, one imagines, are the worst nightmares of the heads of state in question, and that is what they strive to avoid through all available means.

Imagine the carnage stopped and the dust settled. What are we going to find in place of the former Yugoslavia, especially with the current men in charge still at large? A democratic republic? A monarchy? A tyranny?

None of the above: a heap of rubble seething with hatred, topped by a bunch of bemedaled strongmen unfit for any other job than the heap.

Hence, the slow but steady pace of carnage. Its continuation is these men's insurance.

What should and can be done, if anything save direct military intervention in the region, for which America's expensive military, fully deployed to defend its sexual integrity, apparently has no stomach?

First, the "shoulds."

The United States should immediately introduce and expedite a United Nations resolution demanding the immediate establishment of a demilitarised zone on the territory of Bosnia and deployment of U.N. troops on the ground for this purpose.

Then membership of the former Yugoslavia in the United Nations should be extinguished immediately.

Its flag flies outside U.N. headquarters, legitimising the Serbian leader's claim that he is the sole guarantor of Yugoslavia's integrity and that the bloodbath he unleashed is a struggle against secessionists.

This membership also entitles Serbia to Yugoslavia's substantial foreign assets (approximately \$6 billion), which by now have virtually all been spent for the prosecution of Serbia's military campaign. Through the callousness or neglect of the United States and its European allies, this was allowed to happen.

The remaining assets, as well as the property of the former Yugoslavia, should be immediately seized. Its embassies, consular offices, airline and other administrative representations should be closed, given up for rent, and the proceeds should be diverted to relief programmes.

Diplomatic recognition — in whatever form it currently exists — of Serbia and Croatia should be withdrawn and not restored as long as the current heads of these states remain in power and as long as the territorial gains made in the course of hostilities by any party are not relinquished.

The current heads of these states — Slobodan Milosevic of Serbia and Franjo Tudjman of Croatia, as well as the leader of the Bosnian Serbs, Radovan Karadzic — should be immediately outlawed by the United Nations and treated accordingly for the duration of their physical existence, particularly when hostilities cease.

Which is to say that they should be denied entry into the United States as well as all countries with which the United States maintains diplomatic relations, including Switzerland.

Regardless of the outcome of the hostilities, Serbia, the unquestionable aggressor, should be obliged by U.N. resolution to carry the full burden of reparations.

Now, this is not much to ask from America's reasonably expensive State Department. Because this would be just, it can be done unilaterally by the United States. Justice doesn't need a consensus; it's the other way around.

Now, the "cans."

Even as shells and bullets fly overhead, the U.S. government can insure America's industrial and construction enterprises against losses if they move in considerable volume into the region under the protection of U.N. troops. The idea is to move construction and industrial companies with their machinery into the ravaged parts and advertise for jobs paid in convertible currency — to create alternative employment.

The same can be suggested by the American government to the Europeans, who are, in fact, in a better position to execute this and in the light — the dark, rather — of the billowing wave of refugees have a vested interest here. This also can be partly financed by using the former Yugoslavia's remaining assets in the respective European countries.

The main idea is that once the dust settles, both the United States and the European countries will be asked to help in the region's reconstruction. By moving in now, the democratic West may avoid paying up twice.

Also, the aforementioned assets can be diverted in the form of cash, to a bank opened in, say, Trieste or thereabouts, advertising the entitlement of every citizen in the former Yugoslavia to \$2,000 in cash.

All one would have to do to collect is to surrender one's arms. That will not accomplish much but may ensure a longer ceasefire than anything signed in Geneva.

The idea here is that of buying people out of the war; avarice

may prove a better peacemaker than any virtue. Were it not so the Europeans would still be settling their own — quantitatively far superior to the Balkans' — old scores.

The main thing for the West and for the United States in particular is not to go by the moribund agenda set forth by the thugs in Belgrade or Zagreb, the way the Vance-Owen team did: We should impose our own upon them.

For that, of course, we ought to have one.

The treatment of the matter by the U.S. administration, while politically expedient, is ethically scandalous. People in Bosnia are digging what they now call "Clinton graves." The man deserves this; his country doesn't.

An ethical man does not need a consensus of his allies in order to act against something he finds reprehensible. And America is still theoretically an ethical country, judging at least by the verdict in the federal case of Rodney King's beating. What is taking place in the Balkans is much worse than the contents of the King tape and it takes place daily. It is called murder and it comes to you live.

Failing to have our own agenda, failing to respond to the Balkan carnage either aggressively or imaginatively, we Americans at least should not allow our pundits to obscure the sight of human blood with their well-paid verbiage.

When it comes to murder, it is better to feel ashamed and impotent than informed.

In any case, we should bear in mind that all this needn't have happened. That once it began, it could have been stopped. The fact that it has not been stopped means that its continuation is to somebody's advantage.

We may ask, to whose? After all, ethical as we Americans are, we are also a country of the bottom line. If somebody who can stop a bloodbath doesn't do it, it means that he profits from it.

I suggest three names: Milosevic, Karadzic, Tudjman. You are free to make your own list.

You are also welcome to ponder whether the notion that America is an ethical country is a lie.

Mr. Brodsky, a poet, received the Nobel Prize in Literature in 1987. This article is reprinted from the New York Times.

Forgotten exiles bemoan fate

By Robert Fisk

THE ISRAELIS got away with it. That is the message of Marj Al Zohour. Almost eight months after they were expelled by Israel against all international law, the 395 Palestinian deportees in southern Lebanon are still walking the roads beneath the great, grey, hot expanse of Golan, now largely forgotten by the world to which they once appealed for help. United Nations Security Council Resolution 799, which demanded their immediate return to the Israeli-occupied territories, was long ago ignored by Israel as flagrantly as any Serb disregard for the U.N.'s resolutions on Bosnia.

Many of the tents in the deportees' little no-man's-land south of Marj Al Zohour look positively shabby, the canvas stained a dark brown, the hillsides below them littered with thousands of empty cans and orangeade bottles. Convoys of journalists once blocked the narrow road from Beirut to the border to record their daily life — their letters home, their hopes and anger, their athletics matches, their makeshift mosque, their hopeless little "marches of death" back towards the Israeli occupation zone in southern Lebanon — but the crumbling road that leads to the land they call Palestine is now deserted.

In the months since they arrived here more than 100 of the 350 married men among the deportees have become fathers of children; they have yet to see Farah Abdul Kader's wife give birth to a baby girl just five days ago. Many of the men have also lost fathers and mothers whose funerals they could not attend.

Yusef Walaja's father had died in the occupied West Bank, while another deportee's brother-in-law has been shot dead by Israeli troops in Gaza. Each night the Palestinians work their Hizbollah-supplied satellite phone to their homes in the occupied territories.

"No, we did not expect it would take so long," Sheikh Basam Jarrar lamented in tent 46. "It has been many months. Israel succeeded in not having U.N. Resolution 799 applied. And Israel succeeded in not allowing our immediate return. But how do you measure success? Is our staying here an advantage to the Israelis? In the long run, I don't think it is. They wanted to scatter us across the Arab World so we could never return home, but the Lebanese stopped that. Israel succeeded in proving to the whole world that the U.N. is a pawn in the hand of America and that Palestinians rather than Jews are an oppressed people. The Israelis are encouraging people to take revenge."

Harsh words indeed. But there is more reflection than desire for retaliation among the deportees. Five of them have written books on their mountain encampment and on the need for an Islamic revolution; the latest of them, On

the Border of Our Land by Nizar Kader, a journalist deportee from the Jerusalem paper *An Nahar*, is going off to a Beirut publisher. Almost a thousand books, most of them on Islam, now line the "Library" tent whose shelves are made from wooden fruit boxes but whose catalogue studiously records the tent location of each borrower. Hundreds of cassettes of sermons and religious texts line another wall.

The deportees have taken hundreds of videotapes of their camp while their spokesman, Aziz Dweik, has been filming the ruins of a Byzantine village he claims to have discovered near a dried-up river bed. There are oil paintings in one tent, of the moon over southern Lebanon, of that tiny, winding road south that leads to Israel.

Those deportees who support Hamas and Islamic Jihad for the Liberation of Palestine — an ostensible reason for their deportation on Dec. 17 — know well that, if there is a Palestine, they will be part of its history.

Of the 19 deportees flown by helicopter back to their Israeli prison in February, four have now been released. The health of Abdul-Fattah Al Awaisi, who founded the camp "university" earlier this year, collapsed two months ago after he heard that his wife and children had also been deported by the Israelis; to Jordan. He left the camp at night and was cared for in a Lebanese hospital in the village of Mashgara until the Israelis bombarded it in last week's blitz on southern Lebanon. Then he was spirited off to the safety of the Iran-run Imam Khomeini hospital in Baalbek.

The deportees watched the Israeli attack with a mixture of concern and fatalism. With their mountainside physically shaking to the detonation of bombs on the neighbouring hills and the Israeli shellfire moaning through the sky to the south, many of the Palestinians could not sleep at night. Their food, usually brought by the Hizbollah guerrillas who were supposed to be the target of Israel's offensive, was rationed, although a local Lebanese village carried supplies in to the camp at night by mule. "Our greatest fear," as Mr. Jarrar said bluntly, "was that the Israelis would shell or bomb us by accident. We were all frightened."

The Palestinians' latest hope of a return is now placed on a Beirut newspaper dispatch which suggests the Israelis will take back 120 of the deportees now another 260 on Sept. 17 and the remaining five — who they claim to be a subject of some importance to the men — on Dec. 17, the anniversary of their exile.

Hitherto, the Palestinians have spurned such offers and have demanded to return together on the same day. But the months have been long. After much weary discussion, the deportees have decided that if the report is true, they will swallow their pride and accept it — The Independent.

Conspiracy beast on leash

IT IS one thing to be critical of dissolving Parliament before its full term has ended or to legislate a new law governing elections in the country without the consent of the people's deputies, but it is quite another to see in these developments a foreign conspiracy. By now, we have probably got accustomed to interpreting events in conspiratorial terms, especially ever since the Middle East became the subject of real western designs in the wake of World War I. Yet, historical plots against the Arab World since the turn of the century, as actual as they have been, cannot continue to serve as rational basis for examining every single development that takes place in this country and the region as a whole. Witness how some of us, Arabs, got carried away with the connivance syndrome when they contended that the latest Israeli aggression against South Lebanon and the recent disarray in the Palestinian camp were planned and orchestrated to coincide perfectly with one another. Dr. Abdul Aziz Al Rantisi, leader of the Palestinian expellees, even suggested in a statement yesterday that the resignations of three members of the negotiating team was a plot to make people forget the conspiracy of the negotiations.

It would have been fine for the conspiracy-minded or all the theorists and the politicians in the world to come up with whatever they wanted in linking the blitz in Lebanon to anything that happened around it. But it is unacceptable for licensed political parties in Jordan, for instance, to depict the dissolution of Parliament or the determination of the Majali government to go ahead with its plan to amend the electoral law as some sort of alien plot against our democracy. Such an attitude serves no purpose except to relieve those parties from meeting the big challenge facing them in organising well for the next elections and winning seats according to solid programmes and manifestoes rather than rhetoric. It is high time that Jordanians accepted the proposition that we are also capable of bungling things without being picked on from the outside.

The dissolution of Parliament at this time may have been an ill-advised idea no matter how well-intentioned it was meant to be. Likewise, changing laws of the land, away from the halls of a sitting Parliament, may have been unwise and undemocratic. Other means were available to the government of Dr. Abdul Salam Al Majali to attain the same objective of constitutionality and reform. But, having said that, it is also true that some of us feel that the dissolved Parliament has developed a vested interest in preserving the status quo regarding the election process. Several valid scenarios, therefore, could have been conceived to reconcile between legitimacy and change. In this context, we can look beyond our nose to seek guidance from international norms, especially the kind that Jordan has ratified and become treaty-obligated to observe and respect. Not doing our homework properly, however, does not and should not lead to believing in imaginary foreign conspiracies that aim to absolve Jordanians from assuming responsibility for their own commissions or omissions.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

IT SEEMS that the Israelis have succeeded in triggering a political crisis within the ranks of the Palestinians and it seems that the document presented by the Palestinians to the U.S. secretary of state was the thing that topped them all, said Sawi Al Shaab daily. The Israelis have been exerting efforts to exploit differences between the Palestinians' negotiating team and the PLO leadership, hoping to cause permanent split and further delay decisions at the peace negotiations, said the daily. Differences among the Palestinians constitute an internal matter that can be settled by the Palestinians themselves as long as they have their minds and their eyes fixed on one objective, added the daily. Furthermore, as long as Jordanian-Palestinian coordination is in place, and as long as the Arab parties involved in the peace talks stick together, the Israelis have little chance to have their way and achieve their evil intentions, said the daily. The paper called for widening the democratic base within the PLO ranks so that a speedy solution to the differences can be reached. It warned that continued differences would eventually weaken the Palestinian cause and confuse the negotiators.

STATEMENTS ISSUED by some political groups in Jordan criticising the government's dissolution of Parliament have not presented any convincing democratic point of view, said a columnist in *Al Dustour* Tuesday. Taher Al Udwan said that the government was authorised by the Constitution to take this step and that logically the move was right because most of the present members of Parliament are running for the coming elections, expected in November. Those wishing to run for elections must not remain in government posts and at the same time campaign for themselves, lest they would influence the electorate through their official positions, said the writer. In this country, in which democracy is in the making, we look forward to see all political groups respecting the Constitution and the government's right to take the appropriate decisions, added the writer. It is not becoming of any political party to use the term conspiracy whenever a government move is taken and is considered by these parties as not working in their favour, the writer continued. The writer said that the language of dialogue remains far better and stronger than the attacks in statements that can lead nowhere.

Potent religious cocktail at root of Bosnia war

By Paul Smurthwaite
Reuters

BELGRADE — A Bosnian Croat meets a man in a bar and, on hearing that he's a Turk, shoots him dead.

Asked by the police why he did it the Croat replies: "Well, the Turks conquered Bosnia didn't they?"

A policeman replies: "But that was 500 years ago."

"Yes," says the Croat, "But I only heard about it today."

This popular Serbian joke, in which both Croats and Muslims are the figures of fun, could be translated by any stand-up comedian into an Irish, Polish or African jibe.

But in the shattered remains of Bosnia it helps to shed a chink of light on one of the root causes of the war.

For it was the Muslim ingredient in an already potent cocktail of Orthodox Christianity and Roman Catholicism that helped Bosnia become the powder keg that exploded into Europe's worst conflict since World War II.

The Turks invaded Slavic Bosnia in 1473 and swiftly set about converting the country to Islam. By the time Turkey finally lost control to the Austro-Hungarian

Empire more than 400 years later, Bosnia was effectively a Muslim Nation.

Even today, after 16 months of siege, the skyline of the Bosnian capital Sarajevo is peppered with the elegant minarets of mosques, some of them hundreds of years old.

Unlike Serbia or Croatia, where the people are overwhelmingly Christian, Orthodox and Catholic respectively, Bosnia has three distinct religious groups living on top of each other.

At the last census of Bosnia-Herzegovina before the fighting there was a population of 4.1 million. Of this figure, 1.6 million were Muslims, 1.3 million Orthodox Serbs and 750,000 Catholic Croats. The rest were Jews and other minority groups.

It was an explosive mixture and only 40 years of dictatorship by President Josip Broz Tito — a Croat at the head of a Serb establishment — was able to prevent the detonation.

After Tito's death in 1980 the gloves came off in Bosnia. Religious differences slowly came out of the closet — and finally on to the world stage.

The contempt in which Bosnian Serb and Croat politicians and military officers hold the Muslims is close to the surface.

When General Ratko Mladic, the Bosnian Serb army commander, was negotiating his troops' withdrawal from the heights above Sarajevo last week he referred disparagingly and casually to the supply trail running through the mountains as "Allah's road".

Despite the atrocities of ethnic, or religious, cleansing, many Serbs find the opprobrium in which they are held throughout the world mystifying.

After all, they fought the Nazi-installed fascist regime in Croatia and they kept communism to a well-diluted minimum when Stalinism ruled in other parts of east Europe. Now the enemy is Islam, which many Serbs perceive as the number one threat to western civilisation.

"We fought on your side during World War II and we kept the Soviet Union at arm's length," said a young Belgrade businessman, who preferred not to be named.

"Bosnia is the front line between Europe and the Muslim World and we are trying to prevent the spread of fundamentalism. What is wrong with that?"

Asked whether the Christian Orthodox chain of Russia, Serbia and Greece was not sufficiently strong to prevent the spread of Islam he replied darkly: "Chains

can be broken unless you check the links."

He said books written before the conflict by Muslim Bosnian leader Alija Izetbegovic, who among his own people is considered a moderate trying to keep hardliners under control, proved that the Muslims were not interested in sharing power.

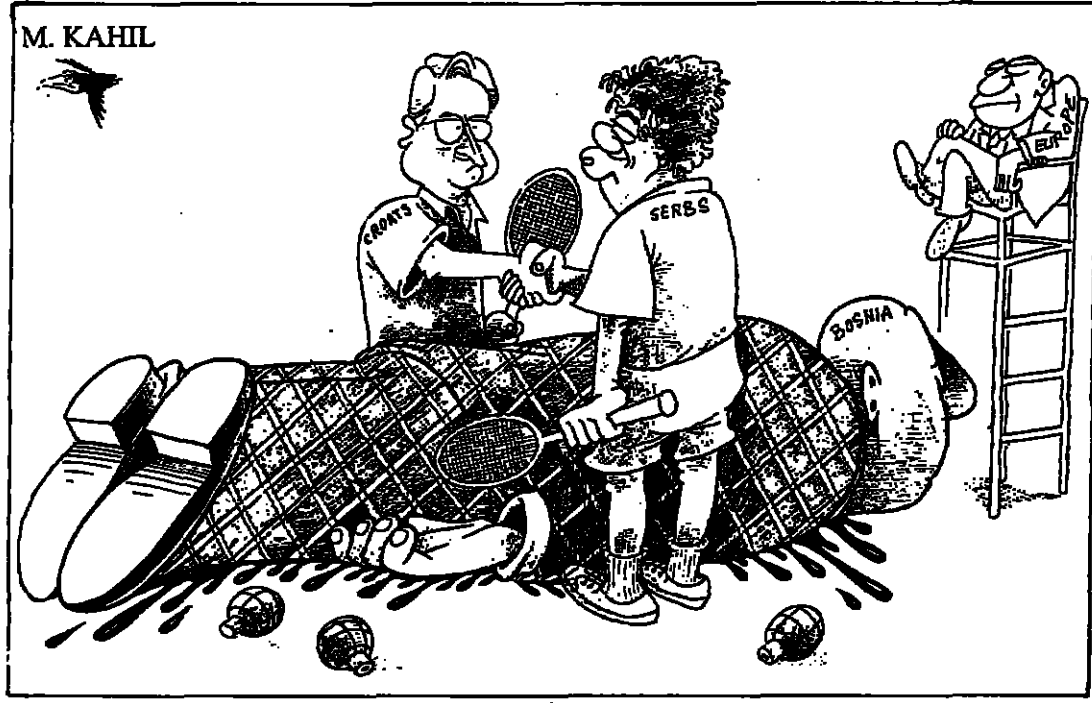
"They want a unitarian state. Izetbegovic is a fundamentalist. You can see that in his writings," the businessman said.

Until the outbreak of hostilities in Bosnia, however, the majority Muslim population had shown no obvious signs of either expansionism or fundamentalism. Muslims appeared content to coexist with Catholic and Orthodox neighbours.

Now, even Muslims raised away from the war zone in Belgrade have accepted that things will never be the same again — even if an eventual Bosnian peace settlement succeeds.

"I will have to change my name to a Serbian one after what has happened in Bosnia," said a 32-year-old Muslim professional.

"I will be a tragedy to hide my religious beliefs and cast aside generations of family history but if I want to work and have security for my wife and children I have no choice."



LETTERS

Flushing off-target anger

To the Editor:

Col. Nasser Mirza's contention that Jordanians "are lucky to be alive" (Letters, Jordan Times, Aug. 5, 1993) is right on target, if we are to take his political analysis seriously, that is. In truth, though, I fail to see what his analysis has to do with the debate over the state of public lavatories in the Kingdom. Whether these lavatories are clean or not should not have been used as an excuse to vent off anger at those who dare to speak their mind on a sensitive issue like this. Whether we like it or not, many Jordanians do consider lavatories at border points to be unhygienic at best.

When Mrs. Am Sawalha wrote a letter to the editor of the Jordan Times, criticising the state of these lavatories and calling on the government to provide the public with better facilities, she obviously did it out of concern for the image of her country and not because she is just "another foreigner living in town."

I do not know Mrs. Sawalha personally, but her message is only right and clear.

All Jordanians should be aware and concerned about the conditions of public services in their country. The government has to provide usable and working lavatories and the public should learn how to leave them as clean, or nearly as clean, as they find them.

I do not know what triggered Col. Mirza's angry response to Mrs. Sawalha's criticism since he cannot be unaware of what she was describing nor of her motives. But perhaps Mrs. Sawalha was criticism even if it is justified.

Finally, Col. Mirza should have realised that Mrs. Sawalha's comment came in the form of a letter to the editor and not an article written by a journalist, so he could have saved his tirade against "incompetent journalists" to a more opportune moment. Unless of course Col. Mirza wants every one to consider his letter also as a "journalistic" piece.

P.V. Vivekanand,
Amman.

The Jordan Times welcomes letters and contributions from its readers on any subject they wish to tackle. Letters intended for publication, however, should contain the writer's full name and request and under special circumstances. Letters are subject to editing. The newspaper is not responsible for the return of unused manuscripts.

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Ancient canals constitute Oman's priceless legacy

By Tom Porteous

NIZWA, Oman — The market of Nizwa on a busy day: colourful fruit and vegetables piled high on the stalls; camels, goats and sheep jostling in the livestock pens; fresh fish brought in from the coast in refrigerated trucks; the flapping of wings and feathers of live poultry in wicker baskets; carcasses of slaughtered meat hanging from hooks; red cuts laid out on cool white tiles.

In the wholesale market merchants trade mangos from India, apples from Iran, and oranges from Egypt by the crate-load. Among the local Omanis, buyers and sellers from Saudi Arabia, the Emirates and Kuwait mix with camera-swinging European and American tourists and imported labourers from Baluchistan, cleaners and porters in orange overalls wielding buckets of disinfectant.

A craftsman sits crosslegged on the floor of his workshop fixing the inlaid silver hilt to the blade of a new khanjar, the characteristic Omani dagger which most men still wear around their waist here in Oman's interior, the region known as Al Dakhiliya.

Nizwa market is a fascinating mixture of tradition with the modernity bought by 20 years worth of oil wealth that was not squandered. Parked outside the market are smart new air-conditioned jeeps with number plates from all the countries of the Gulf Cooperation Council. The market itself, which opened last year, is spotlessly clean, tiled from floor to ceiling, and ventilated by means of huge air ducts reaching down from the vaulted roof. But it is built in the Islamic Arab style, respectful of the old market which it replaced and of the traditional architecture of this oasis stronghold — former capital of Oman.

The stereotype of the modern Gulf is of mushroom city states in the desert, an Arabian Wild West where — before oil — nothing existed except sand dunes, camels and bedouins. The swiftest glimpse of Nizwa is enough to explode this myth. Nizwa is the Omani heartland, the largest and most populous town in a fertile region of oases nestled in the mountains of Hajjar. It is the centre of Oman's predominantly Ibadi Muslim faith and the cradle of the Omani identity, which goes back several thousand years and which has been nurtured and shaped not by oil but by water.

To be sure, to understand modern Oman one must look at the balance sheets of its oil industry and compare the income with the cost of the country's modern development. But this is only a small and recent part of Oman's story. The story starts in the heroic days of early history with the building of the extraordinary irrigation system which waters the oases of the interior. What explains Nizwa's busy modern market is not so much the oil fields of Al Dali, Beena, Mafraq and others far out in the desert,

as Falaj Dars, the thin ribbon of water that flows, year in and year out, from the distant mountain into the palm groves, fruit orchards and plantations around which the town is built and off which it lives.

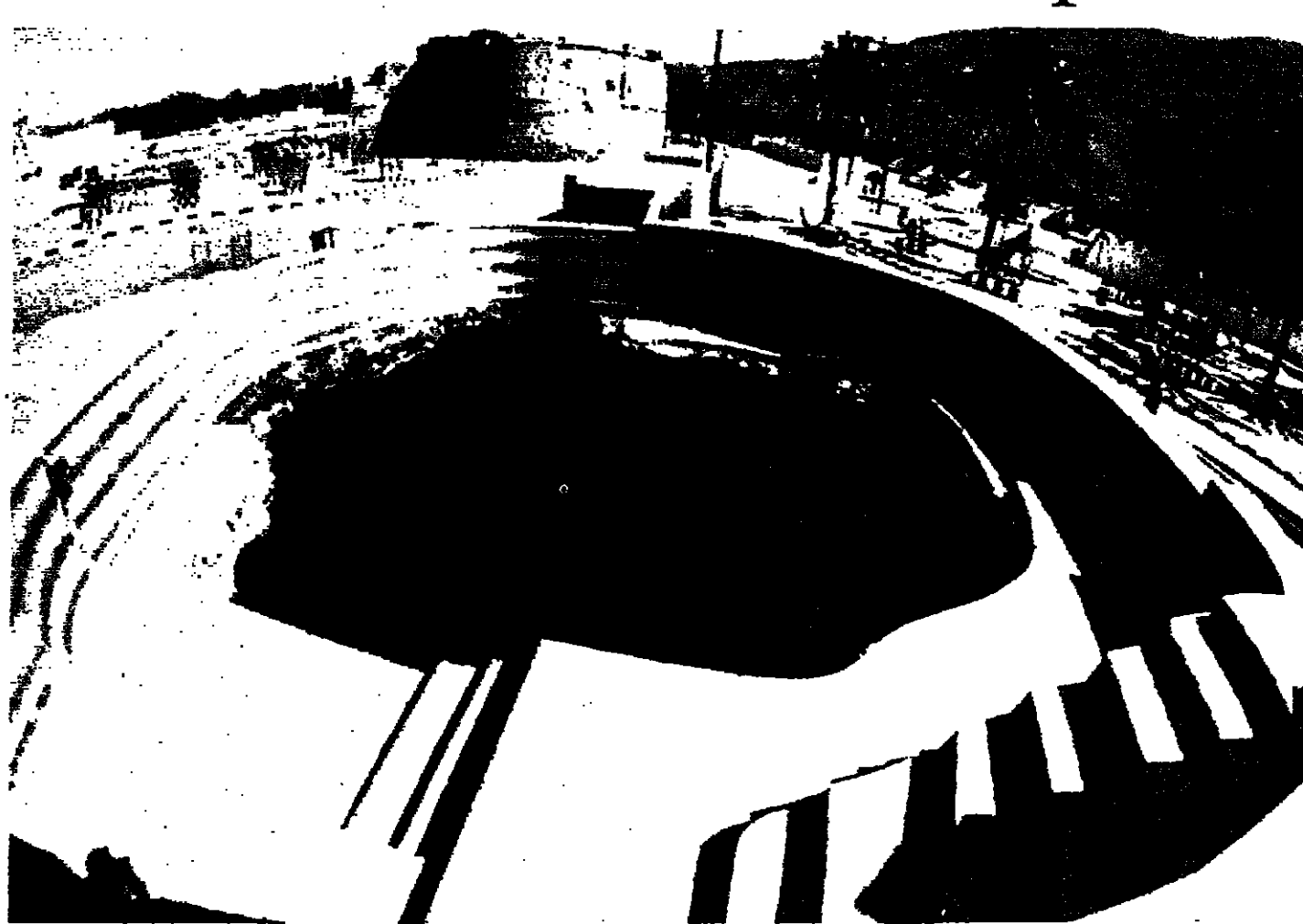
According to Omani tradition, it was the Prophet Suleiman, the son of Daoud, who designed and built the aflaj, as the canals are usually known. In honour of their holy creator, some Omanis still refer to them as Daoudis. Tradition has it that the prophet ordered supernatural spirits to build the aflaj — 10,000 of them in 10 days. It is a tribute to a remarkable irrigation system that has for over 2,000 years been central to Oman's livelihood and culture.

Archaeology tells us a little more about the origins of the canals. Many of them may well have been built in Sassanid times (around the third century A.D.) by the Persians who periodically occupied Oman in pre-Islamic times and who built similar irrigation systems in their own country. But some of the aflaj are probably much more ancient, dating from the colonisation of the region 2,500 years ago by another Persian dynasty — the Achaemenids — made famous by the legendary Cyrus the Great.

In its simplest description, a falaj (singular of aflaj) is a man-made channel which brings water from its source to the area to be cultivated, to the oases. Simple enough in normal conditions, but in the Hajjar mountains it is rather more complex. Usually the water source is not only many kilometres from the most suitable terrain for cultivation, but it lies hidden deep beneath the mountains. So the aflaj had to be designed both to tap hidden natural underground reservoirs and to bring water thus "mined" across miles of barren mountainous terrain.

The aflaj appear, as if by magic from the side of the mountain and then gush down the man-made channels, sometimes in galleries hacked into the steep mountain-side, often for many miles through the parched-dry desert, until they reach the terraced palm groves and citrus orchards of a remote oasis. It is only by following the courses of the aflaj that one can get some idea of the sheer enormity of a system which combines aesthetics with brilliant engineering. Whoever did build the first aflaj in the Omani interior, the legend of Suleiman and his spirit is a tacit recognition of the fact that they represent an almost superhuman feat of engineering.

To tap the water which lay deep under the mountains, the builders first determined — through water divining and surveying the land between the source and the area to be irrigated — the best place to dig what is called a "mother well". This "mother well" was the first and the deepest (sometimes, as deep as 70 metres straight down into the heart of the mountain) of



When building canals, the first step was to dig a 'mother well' (WNL photo)

a series of shafts with which the water was "mined". These shafts, dug parallel to one another at regular intervals down the mountain-side, were designed in such a way that a tunnel could be mined in a straight line linking the bottom of each shaft so that the water could be brought from the underground reservoir out onto the surface of the mountain — sometimes a distance of several miles.

Once a falaj was built, the shafts gave access to the tunnel for whatever maintenance the system required. Cleaning and repair were tasks which the community assiduously carried out, for if the falaj was kept in good shape, it provided a steady stream of the purest water throughout the year. Most of the canals have kept up this supply since they were built. "Praise the Lord!" exclaim the people of the oases.

Long before the beginning of the Islamic era, the canal system

was already the vital element, the jugular vein of the society and economy of the Omani interior. The regulation of the water, its distribution among members of the community, was a matter controlled by carefully developed laws which were strictly observed. How this was organised in pre-Islamic times one can only guess. The first written evidence for the details of the organisation of canal communities — legal decisions passed down during the first Imamate in the third century of the Islamic era — shows the extent to which the issue of water determined and dominated the tribal, social, and political structures of the region.

Who has the right of access to how much water and for what purpose? These were and still are the key questions in the oasis societies of Oman's interior and the answers were worked out according to a complex system of usage priorities and land ownership. The first priority was

domestic and ritual water use. For this reason the residential areas of most oases were built upstream of the agricultural land. At the head of the canal, before the water is used for anything else, is an opening where all members of the community can draw drinking water. Then in descending order comes the men's bath house (usually close to the mosque), the women's bath house which also serves as a wash house, and a place set aside for the washing of the dead. After this, the water is usually divided into smaller channels through which it passes into different parts of the oasis itself for irrigation.

The method of administration of aflaj water varies from oasis to oasis, but generally farmers hold (and inherit) water shares corresponding roughly to the amount of land they own. According to the size of his share, the farmer is entitled to a specific quantity of water each day which is assessed

in terms of "cycles" — the length of time during which he can divert water from the main channel into his gardens, palm groves and orchards. Sundials, often no more than poles stuck into the ground, are still used in the oases to measure the farmers' allocated time for irrigation.

Farmers requiring extra water, or those without permanent water shares, are entitled to buy shares from an agent who in most of the larger systems is responsible for administering the water distribution on behalf of the main share-holders. The agent will also organise the upkeep of the canal system. Disputes which inevitably arose were traditionally settled by the local religious judge.

The limited water resources — and the finely tuned system of water allocation which this scarcity imposed — tended to promote social cohesion and solidarity within each oasis. Even in a larger oasis town like Izki, which was inhabited by two different



Oman's canals were built by tapping into underground aquifers to bring water across miles of barren terrain (WNL photo)

tribal groups and physically divided into two separate quarters to accommodate them, the common falaj enforced a certain cooperation between rivals.

Because of the canals' vital importance to the community, the characteristic forts of the Omani interior were often built astride a falaj, and even today locals will point out how the many lookout posts which are a feature of the hills surrounding the oases were strategically located to guard over the aflaj and their sources. When the precarious tribal balance of the region broke down and a serious civil war set in the greatest disaster was the destruction of the aflaj and it took many decades of peace for the system to be rebuilt and the normal life of the oases to return. It is thought that many of the aflaj which were destroyed in the bitter civil wars of the 5th century A.D. — the third of the Islamic era — were never rebuilt.

Indeed many of the tribes appear to have virtually lost the very art of building aflaj in this period.

Today, however, with the benefit of oil resources and the pressure of population growth there is intensive investment in this ancient irrigation system with a new Ministry of Water Resources allocating several million dollars each year to the maintenance and restoration of the aflaj. In spite of the obvious predominance of oil in the economy, Oman is still a predominantly agricultural society and for all the technological progress of the past 20 years, it is still the old canals of the Prophet Suleiman which constitute the backbone of Oman's agricultural sector. This sector employs more than half the Omani workforce and provides Omani society with that continuity with the past and strong sense of identity which distinguishes it from many developing societies — World News Link.

Greek archaeologists hunt remains of Trojan war vessel

By Catherine Boitard
Agence France Presse

ATHENS — From dawn to dusk for the past month 10 divers and archaeologists have been busily exploring the seabed off Cape Iria in the eastern Peloponnese, in search of a shipwreck dating back to the Trojan war.

The volunteers from the Greek Marine Archaeology Institute study the seabed centimetre by centimetre at a depth of 25 metres, while the sand is sucked up by a pump.

It was back in 1974 that the institute's President Nikos Tsouchos discovered three earthenware jars and an anchor off Cape Iria. They were of Mycenaean and Cypriot origin, pointing to the shipwreck of a trade vessel around 1200 B.C. — the first such vessel to have been located in Greece.

However, the private institute, set up in 1973, had to "battle for years against under-funding and the inertia of the archaeological services," says Mr. Tsouchos.

A marine archaeology section was not set up until 1976, and the activity has "barely even been born" in Greece, Mr. Tsouchos adds.

One member of the archaeological team, Dimitris Kourkoumelis, explains that the work underwater is slow and "sometimes frustrating."

"On land you can dig for eight hours at a stretch, but here you can only dive twice a day for 20 to 25 minutes at a time, and only in summer," he says.

Mr. Tsouchos says the team began looking for an entire ship, but remains scattered over a wide area suggested that the ship did not sink immediately, but was dragged against the rocks.

"In such cases you never find the hull intact," he explains.

Discovery of the ship's con-

tents would still make the search worthwhile, according to Mr. Tsouchos.

"Cypriot artefacts have already been discovered in Greece, but we do not know how they got here," he says.

"If we find bronze — which was manufactured in Cyprus at the time — we will be able to conclude that maritime trade was flourishing between Cyprus and the Greek coast."

Greek archaeologists estimate that there are about 2,000 shipwrecks in Greek waters from all periods.

However, the figure only takes account of reports from fishermen and surveys carried out before archaeological work began along the Greek coast, says Mr. Kourkoumelis.

Only 10 of the wrecks have been studied.

They include a wreck found at Dokos in the Peloponnese — the oldest ever discovered. In the past three years institute volunteers have brought to the surface 10,000 pieces of pottery from the site, dating back to around 2,200 B.C.

At Alonissos in the northwestern Aegean Sea last year the public marine archaeology service began a systematic exploration of the largest trade vessel of the classical era to be found to date.

The archaeologists say they have to choose sites which are least likely to be pillaged, because they lack resources. They say it is virtually impossible to protect underwater remains, and organised bands of smugglers, especially Italians, are already operating along the Greek coast.

Nevertheless, marine archaeology is "irreplaceable," argues the institute's Secretary General Iannis Vichos, "because a shipwreck is like a time capsule, containing only remains of a single period."

'Win a holiday' project launched

AMMAN — Win A Holiday is a tourism promotion programme organised by the management of Hotel Jordan Inter, Continental and the Royal Jordanian (RJ) for customers and local commercial firms to win valuable and encouraging prizes.

The launching of this programme, which includes offering air tickets and one-week stays in one of Inter, Continental hotels in the world for free, was announced Tuesday. To win a prize, customers, and companies have to book a number of room nights at Jordan Inter, Continental only between Aug. 1, 1993 and Jan. 31, 1994.

The announcement of the start of the programme was made Tuesday by the director of sales at the hotel, Munther Twal.

Mr. Twal said the programme stipulates booking 75 room nights at hotel Jordan Inter, Continental during the specified period to get an air ticket to Cairo and a week-long stay at one of the Inter, Continental hotels; reserving 100 room nights would get an air ticket to Athens with hotel accommodation; 125 nights gets a ticket to London with hotel accommodation, 150 room nights a ticket to London or Paris with stay and 200 room nights a ticket to New York or Bangkok and a weekend hotel accommodation.

According to Mr. Twal, the programme, which is implemented for the first time, was studied and well prepared and is based on former experience.

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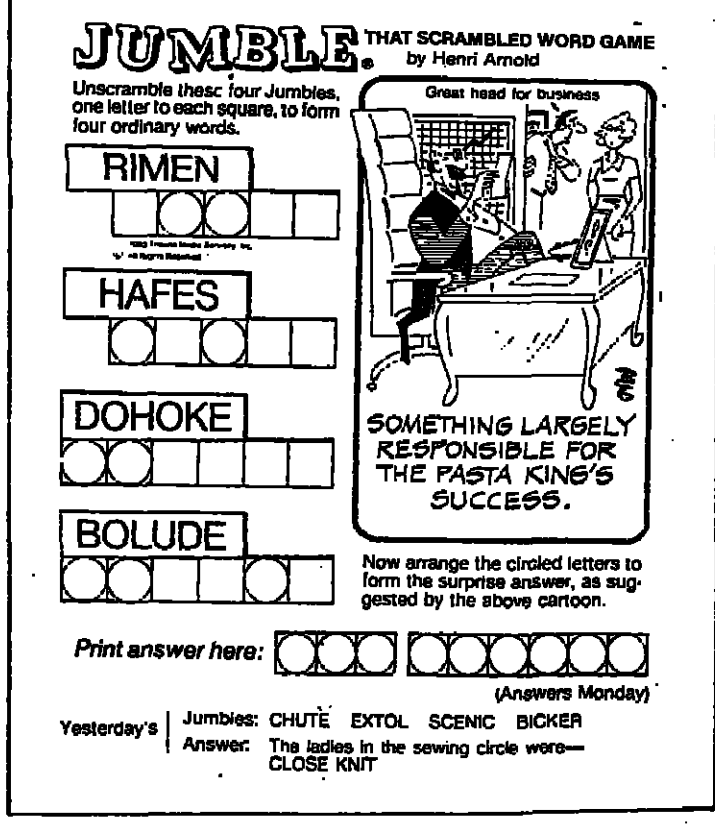
31 Fruit
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Yesterday's Puzzle Solved:

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50 Dickens
51 girl
52 M4 mate

53 Black, to poet
54 Slink heavy
57 Rabbit
58 Baseball farm
59 Dickens
60 girl



Serbs leave one Sarajevo height, refuse to quit another

SARAJEVO (AP) — Bosnian Serb forces blew up a TV tower before withdrawing from a mountain overlooking Sarajevo and refused to budge from a more strategic peak, U.N. officials said Tuesday.

U.N. mediators put peace talks in Geneva on hold Tuesday pending confirmation that both peaks were under U.N. control. NATO plans for air strikes on Bosnian Serb positions, approved Monday, also hinge on the withdrawal.

The commanders of the Bosnian army and of Bosnian Serb forces were meeting at Sarajevo Airport under U.N. auspices in a new attempt to sign an agreement reached July 30 to end the fighting.

Mounts Igman and Bjelasnica overlook Sarajevo, and their capture by Serb forces last week locked the Serb ring around the capital, which has been under siege for 16 months.

Under a plan agreed upon with U.N. officials, Bosnian Serb leaders pledged to withdraw from both mountains. They pulled back Monday from the taller, more distant Mount Bjelasnica, taking down their flag and turning over control to U.N. peacekeepers.

But before retreating, they blew up the TV tower on the mountain, said Commander Barry Frewer, spokesman for U.N. peacekeepers. Despite the loss of the TV tower, the Bosnians are still able to broadcast from other transmitters.

The Serbs were still on Mount Igman, the more strategic of the two mountains because it was the

last clandestine weapons supply route for Bosnian government forces.

Maj. Frewer said late Monday that the Serbs were in three encampments on the east, west and central part of the Igman plateau.

U.N. spokesman John Mills in Geneva said Serb forces began pulling back Tuesday from Igman, "but that this withdrawal is not proceeding as quickly as it might and it should have been completed by now."

Mr. Mills said mediators Lord Owen and Thorvald Stoltenberg had postponed the Geneva talks until U.N. forces are in full control of the peaks, a condition set by Bosnian President Alija Izetbegovic to end his boycott of the talks.

Mr. Mills said mediators also called Bosnia Serb leader Radovan Karadzic in his Geneva hotel and told him "in very clear terms that his forces should withdraw and that they should withdraw this morning if possible."

Mr. Karadzic said he would contact his forces in the field, and the mediators hoped to hold a session later Tuesday if the Serbs did retreat, Mr. Mills said.

Maj. Frewer, spokesman for U.N. forces in Sarajevo, has said the withdrawal from Igman would take several days. And Bosnian Serb military commander Ratko Mladic has said his forces would withdraw one position at a time, to make sure U.N. troops can prevent the Bosnian army from moving in.

On Monday, 150 French peacekeepers and engineers encountered mines and people blocking the way as they moved

to positions to monitor the withdrawal, Mr. Mills said.

In Brussels, NATO envoys agreed Monday on a blueprint for air strikes against Serb targets, but said it would be up to U.N. Secretary General Boutros Ghali to authorize the first raid.

Maj. Frewer insisted Tuesday that the purpose of the Brussels agreement was to provide air cover to protect U.N. peacekeepers and support their efforts to get humanitarian aid to civilians.

"We have not assessed that we need air power at this time to support (the humanitarian) operation," he said, adding that he hoped air power "never has to be used."

Mr. Izetbegovic returned Monday to the Geneva talks, ending a weeklong boycott begun when the Serbs took the two mountains.

He has reluctantly agreed to plans to divide Bosnia into Muslim, Serb and Croat states. But discussions stalled when negotiators began drawing borders.

Muslims made up the largest ethnic group in Bosnia before war, which has left up to 200,000 people dead or missing, and uprooted 2 million people. Serbs now control about 70 per cent of Bosnia and Croats most of the rest.

U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher warned Monday that NATO is ready to take "forceful action" against Bosnian Serbs if they do not stop their "intolerable behaviour."

"With today's decision, the alliance now has in place all the means necessary to take forceful

action against the Serbs should they not cease their intolerable behaviour," he said after NATO ambassadors meeting in Brussels approved plans for possible air strikes.

Russia warned Tuesday that it remained opposed to force in Bosnia-Herzegovina and said the war there had reached an "extremely dangerous threshold" after NATO authorized air strikes on Serb positions.

A spokesman said Russian Foreign Minister Andrei Kozyrev would speak with top officials in Washington and other Western capitals, as well as with leaders of the opposing sides in Bosnia, to outline Moscow's stance.

"The main thing now is to avoid uncontrolled actions in Bosnia itself," ministry spokesman Grigori Karasin told reporters at a weekly briefing.

Mr. Karasin said Russian diplomats abroad had received "unambiguous instructions" on how to convey Moscow's views on the crisis in Bosnia and added that Russia remained "against the use of force for its settlement."

In London, a wounded five-year-old girl seen as symbolising Sarajevo and the world's failure to stop the Bosnian war was diagnosed as having meningitis Tuesday but doctors said she had not suffered permanent brain damage.

Neurosurgeons battled through the night to save Irma Hadzimuratovic, rescued from Sarajevo Monday by the British Air Force, as accusations flew in the press about the government's motives for the high-publicity mercy mission.



Five-year-old Irma Hadzimuratovic arrives at London's Great Ormond Street Hospital late Monday after being evacuated from Sarajevo (AFP photo)

Hani murder suspect granted bail

JOHANNESBURG (AP) — A woman accused in the assassination of black leader Chris Hani was granted bail of 30,000 rand (\$9,000) Tuesday but must remain under 24-hour police supervision.

Gaye Derby-Lewis, one of three people facing trial on murder charges in connection with Mr. Hani's shooting death of Mr. Hani, also must surrender her passport, Supreme Court Justice C. Gubbay ordered.

She sought bail on grounds that prosecutors had presented no evidence against her.

Mrs. Derby-Lewis, 54, and her

husband, right-wing leader Clive Derby-Lewis, were arrested in the weeks following the killing of Mr. Hani, a popular African National Congress and South African Communist Party leader.

A Polish immigrant, Janusz Walus, was arrested shortly after Mr. Hani was shot to death in his driveway, and police say the murder weapon was found in the car Mr. Walus was driving.

Prosecutors allege Mr. Walus killed Mr. Hani under a plan worked out by Mr. Derby-Lewis to trigger a race war and halt plans to end apartheid.

Rioting erupted in several cities after Mr. Hani's death, but the violence was not as widespread or severe as feared.

A fresh wave of political violence has erupted after black and white negotiators last month set April 27 as the date for South Africa's first multiracial election.

Police said Tuesday that 14 people died in the latest unrest, including four killed on commuter trains in the Johannesburg area. Another 10 bodies were recovered in black townships near Johannesburg, where most of the recent violence has occurred.

Ranariddh vows to get tough with rebels

PHNOM PENH (AP) — Co-premier of the Cambodian government Prince Norodom Ranariddh has vowed to get tough with the Khmer Rouge if the radical faction continues attacking government positions.

"From now on if the Khmer Rouge try to take territory under government control, we will exercise our right of self-defence and we will push them back," state radio quoted the prince as saying late Monday.

Prince Ranariddh made the remarks during a three-day visit he and fellow co-premier Hun Sen made to the central province of Kompong Cham.

Prince Ranariddh said he discussed the government's right to retaliate against Khmer Rouge attacks with many "foreign friends" who had visited him.

"They said 'yes, you can fight back. There is no problem be-

cause we really hate the Khmer Rouge too," the prince said.

Prince Ranariddh told a state television crew to film his comments so his warning could be seen and heard by the Khmer Rouge officials in the capital, spokesman Man Ben and former ambassador to Peking Chan Younan.

Prince Ranariddh criticised Khmer Rouge nominal leader Khieu Samphan for his recent comments urging the recalcitrant faction's guerrillas to fight the "Vietnamese puppet regime" and "liberate the country."

Mr. Khieu Samphan claimed the new government was still under the control of the Vietnamese-installed Phnom Penh party despite the Royalist FUNCINPEC Party's participation.

FUNCINPEC was in an alliance with the Khmer Rouge

throughout the 13-year civil war against the Phnom Penh regime and many of the Royalist faction's troops are more at ease with their former allies than their former foes.

The war was brought to a formal end by the signing of the 1991 Paris agreement.

Meanwhile three men in military uniforms abducted an American U.N. provincial director at gunpoint, forced him into his car and drove him nearly halfway to the capital before wrecking the car and fleeing, a U.N. spokesman said Tuesday.

The director of central Kompong Cham province, U.S. citizen Tom Ganasos, was seriously injured in the incident — the 110th robbery of a U.N. vehicle so far.

"He's fine, just a big scare," U.N. spokesman Eric Falt said.

Chinese hijacker forces jet to Taiwan

TAIPEI (R) — A street vendor armed with acid and declaring a hatred of communism hijacked an airliner from China to Taiwan Tuesday then surrendered to police.

The Air China Boeing 767-200 with 150 people aboard was the third Chinese airliner hijacked to Taiwan since April.

A Taipei Airport police spokesman said the plane was returned to China about two hours after it was forced to land in Taiwan. All 136 other passengers, including 25 foreigners, and 13 crew members were unharmed.

The hijacker, identified as Shi Yuebo, a 30-year-old wool vendor from China's northern province of Hebei, surrendered to airport authorities and was being questioned by the district prosecutor.

Mr. Shi threatened to disfigure passengers sitting beside him with acid he had in a shampoo bottle if the plane did not fly to Taipei, the police spokesman said.

"I want freedom... I spit on communism and would rather die in Taiwan," Mr. Shi told reporters.

"Mainland Chinese are living in an abyss of suffering... I hope (Taiwan's) Nationalist Party will not hold peace talks with the Chinese Communists," he said.

State television said Mr. Shi had requested asylum but this could not be confirmed. Officials said he would face trial in Taiwan for piracy and could face the death sentence.

"We do not welcome hijackers," Mr. Huang Hui-Ho, a prosecutor in the northern country of Taoyuan, told a news conference.

Mr. Shi commandeered the plane between Peking and the Chinese coastal city of Xiamen where it had been due to make a stop-over before proceeding to the Indonesian capital of Jakarta.

Taiwan returned the plane to Xiamen and a spokesman for the Civil Aviation Administration of China (CAAC) said it would resume its journey later in the day to Jakarta.

Taiwan's Nationalist government, which lost the Chinese civil war in 1949, still claims sovereignty over China and used to hail Chinese hijackers and military defectors as "freedom seekers," giving them cash rewards.

But political tensions have been easing since the late 1980s and Taiwan is now seeking to improve ties with its rival.

Hosokawa vows to stake life on reform

TOKYO (AP) — Japan's new Prime Minister Morihiro Hosokawa vowed Tuesday to stake his political life on working out measures against corruption this year while carrying on the key policies of the former government.

He also said his seven-party coalition would strive to reduce Japan's huge trade surplus as "one of the very big subjects we give priority" but rejected U.S.-proposed numerical targets for limits on Japanese exports.

"I will take responsibility if I fail to realise political reform within this year," Mr. Hosokawa told a news conference the day after forming a cabinet representing all seven coalition partners — including defectors from the scandal-hit Liberal Democratic Party (LDP), socialists, centrists, liberals and Buddhists.

The former LDP deputy and provincial governor denied widespread allegations that his ragtag government would be short-lived and that he might dissolve the House of Representatives as soon as the political reform bills are passed.

"You should not carelessly talk about dissolving the house. It is up to our judgement," said Mr. Hosokawa, who was elected premier Friday following the LDP's loss of majority strength in general elections a month ago.

"I intend this cabinet not simply to lead the country for a brief interlude, but rather to undertake the important mission of opening the way for the new era to come," he said.

The dapper 55-year-old, whose popular conservative group Japan New Party was first established to contest Senate elections last year, said he would make "utmost efforts" to pass bills related to political reform by the end of the year.

He promised to convene a special session of parliament in early September to boost debate on anti-corruption legislation in tandem with shaping a budget which would not require issuing deficit-covering bonds.

He denied his decision had been controlled by former LDP power broker Ichiro Ozawa, who quit the LDP in June along with former Finance Minister Tsutomu Hata and dozens of allies to form Shinseitō (Japan Renewal Party).

Shinseitō has been given such key ministries as foreign affairs, finance, trade, farm and defence, Mr. Hata became deputy premier and foreign minister.

"Mr. Ozawa is a very influential person," Mr. Hosokawa admitted, but said he had made his own choice in placing the "right persons in the right posts."

"In forming our coalition, we have agreed to continue the foreign, defence, economic, energy, and other key basic policies of the previous government, and have affirmed our consistency and continuity with established Japanese policy," he said.

NEWS IN BRIEF

2nd quake hits New Zealand

WELLINGTON (R) — An earthquake measuring 6.3 on the Richter Scale hit New Zealand's North Island Tuesday evening, causing damage to buildings and cutting off telephone links with the town of Wairoa at its epicentre, police said. The quake, the second to hit New Zealand in nine hours, was felt throughout New Zealand's North Island, with the towns of Gisborne and Wairoa the most severely affected.

Typhoon hits S. Korean coast

SEOUL (AP) — Typhoon Robin battered South Korea's southeastern coast with high winds and heavy rain Tuesday, killing four people and leaving three missing. Hundreds of people were left homeless and southern farmland was inundated before the storm, with winds of up to 90 miles (144 kilometres) an hour, moved on through a strait between South Korea and Japan into the Sea of Japan. The storm set off landslides that killed three people in rural areas near Ulsan, 320 kilometres (192 miles) southeast of Seoul, police said. In the southern port city of Pusan, a 55-year-old man was killed when a gust of wind blew him off in front of his house, they added. Police said three people were presumed dead in floods and landslides in southern provinces, including one swept away with his car by a swollen river. The typhoon also lashed Japan's southern island of Kyushu early Tuesday killing two people, Japanese police said. Five others were missing. Two elderly women were found dead in a small town in Miyazaki prefecture after being buried in separate mudslides early Tuesday, police said. Another landslide destroyed seven houses in Tsurumi City in nearby Kagoshima prefecture, where five people were still missing.

Shaposhnikov to quit Security Council

MOSCOW (AP) — Marshall Yevgeni Shaposhnikov said Tuesday that he was resigning as secretary of the Russian Security Council (RSC), Interfax News Agency reported. Marshall Shaposhnikov refused to explain his resignation, Interfax added. The Marshall retired as commander-in-chief of the Commonwealth of Independent States' armed forces in June to take the post of RSC secretary. Later that month the Russian parliament refused to confirm Marshall Shaposhnikov's appointment to the RSC, which is chaired by President Boris Yeltsin. Marshall Shaposhnikov said afterwards that he had been humiliated by the remarks of certain conservative deputies during the parliamentary debate on his appointment. He had asked these deputies to withdraw their comments, but they had refused, Interfax reported.

Tajik troops retake key pass

MOSCOW (AP) — Tajik government troops have recaptured a key mountain pass in Gorno-Badakhshan linking the eastern part of the country with the capital Dushanbe, the Tajik Defence Ministry said Tuesday. Separately, Afghan Foreign Minister Hedayat Amin Arsala arrived in Dushanbe Tuesday for talks in which he is expected to press the Tajik government to start negotiations with the Islamic rebels. The troops took the Khabarabad pass late Monday after a 10-day campaign against an estimated 2,000 armed Islamic rebels, ITAR-TASS News Agency reported. The ministry said the troops removed landmines from the pass road to enable a convoy of trucks with food and medicine to reach Gorno-Badakhshan. About 60 people reportedly died during the week's fighting.

Questions raised about Bush war record

NEW YORK (R) — Harper's magazine said that a World War II document indicated that former U.S. President George Bush may have committed a war crime when he was a bomber pilot and that the U.S. media declined to report the document's existence during the 1992 presidential campaign. The document is previously classified account "aircraft action report" of a bombing run in the South Pacific in which a Japanese trawler ferrying military supplies to a Japanese-controlled island was sunk by U.S. Navy planes, including a bomber piloted by Mr. Bush. After the trawler was sunk, the document says without elaboration, the bombers involved in the trawler attack then strafed lifeboats — which Harper's says was an act in violation of international law. A spokesman for Mr. Bush said the ex-president would have no comment on the report.

Senators urge U.S. to pay U.N. debt

WASHINGTON (AP) — To preserve its credibility, the United States should pay its overdue peacekeeping bills and other United Nations obligations, a bipartisan group of senators said. America "cannot lead with credibility if we remain a debtor nation at the U.N.," 13 senators said in a letter to President Bill Clinton. They also voiced dismay over proposed reductions in Congress to U.S. payments, which already are in arrears. The United States, which is assessed for 25 per cent of U.N. operations and 30.4 per cent of its peacekeeping costs, is the world body's biggest contributor and its biggest debtor.

CIA chief retrieves body of slain U.S. official

TBILISI, Georgia (AP) — CIA Director James Woolsey Jr. flew to the capital of Georgia Tuesday to retrieve the body of a slain American identified as a career diplomat.

U.S. officials in Washington, Moscow and Tbilisi, the Georgian capital, refused to comment on reports that Fred Woodruff, 45, was a CIA employee.

Mr. Woodruff was killed at dusk Sunday by a single bullet fired into his vehicle.

The CIA chief, who had been visiting Moscow, was met at the Tbilisi Airport by Georgian leader Eduard Shevardnadze, a former Soviet foreign minister.

They stood solemnly on the tarmac as Mr. Woodruff's coffin was draped with an American flag and loaded into the U.S. government Boeing 707 that brought Mr. Woolsey to Tbilisi.

Mr. Woolsey conferred with Mr. Shevardnadze for about an hour in a cordoned-off section of the airport, then left with Mr. Woodruff's body.

The slain American was with the head of Mr. Shevardnadze's security, Eldar Gogoladze, and two other Georgians when he was killed, officials said.

Mr. Gogoladze, who was not wounded, was at the airport to meet Mr. Woolsey, along with a contingent of American diplomats.

Pope arrives in Jamaica to lukewarm welcome

KINGSTON (Agencies) — Pope John Paul began a visit to North America Tuesday with a subdued welcome on the Caribbean Island of Jamaica: marred by scattered protests.

The much-travelled Pontiff received one of the quietest welcomes of any papal visit when he arrived from Rome on his 60th foreign trip. He will also visit Mexico and Colorado.

Government leaders and a polite diplomatic community were on hand at the airport but there were none of the cheering crowds that usually mark his arrivals.

Only about seven per cent of Jamaica's population of 2.4 million — mostly descendants of slaves — are Catholic.

Earlier, on the 11-hour flight to Jamaica, the Pope told reporters he favoured dialogue to end the violence in former Yugoslavia, but he did not specifically condemn military intervention, which he called "a political responsibility."

"We pastors try to promote the principles of co-existence, a moral order among persons and people, international order... but the applications of political and military means is something that belongs to others," he said.

Before the 73-year-old Pope arrived in Jamaica, a billboard on the airport road celebrating his visit was defaced, with his face



Court jails marathon-row couple — far apart

LONDON (R) — A British couple who tormented neighbours with noisy domestic rows lasting up to 12 hours were jailed for two weeks — in prisons 100 miles (160 kilometres) apart. William and Elizabeth Greenham, both in their 60s, were jailed for contempt of court in the eastern coastal resort of Great Yarmouth after failing to comply with an order requiring them to stop their incessant arguing. The action was brought by the local authority after complaints from neighbours on the council-owned housing complex where the couple live. They were jailed after a marathon argument lasting 12 hours in July, Great Yarmouth Borough Council said. "I don't know what will happen when they get out again but let's hope this has been a salutary lesson," said council solicitor Christopher Skinner, who said the common-law couple had lived together for nine years.

Japanese live longest — study

TOKYO (AP) — Life expectancy in Japan remains the highest in the world despite a slight decline for men, according to a study released by the Ministry of Health Monday. Japanese men can expect to live 76.09 years, down from 76.11 years in 1991 while Japanese women are likely to have a lifespan of 82.22 against 82.11 two years ago. Life expectancy for Japanese men has been the highest in the world for seven years while women here have topped the list for eight years. The gap between men and women has now grown to 6.13 years. Icelandic men came in second place for longevity at an average 75.71 years, while French women have the second longest life expectancy of 80.94 years. Some 47.5 per cent of the 622,000 male babies born in Japan last year will live beyond their 80th birthday, according to the report, while the percentage rises to 69 per cent for the 586,000 girls born.

Africanised bees spreading in 2nd U.S. state

TUCSON, Arizona (AP) — Alvin Via was making a lot of noise as he scrounged through a scrap yard for a piece of pipe. The noise stirred a swarm of bees hanging out in the vent of a junked heater and thousands rushed out and attacked him. Via, stung eight times, sprinted 70 yards (metres) to a pickup truck. "I was just trying to get out of there," the 35-year-old cotton gin operator said. "Killer bees, that's what went through my mind." He was right. His attack on July 29 in Marana, 25 miles (40 kilometres) north of Tucson, was the northernmost of nine Arizona sightings of Africanised "killer bee" swarms since the bees began appearing in Arizona in June. Arizona is the second state reached by the bees, which are blamed for 150 deaths in Mexico one in Texas. The state is abuzz with talk of the aggressive bees, though experts say they're a much bigger threat to the honeybee industry than to humans. "People see bees now and they get immediately worried," said Tim Prendiville, owner of a Tucson pest control company. "I've had no encounter with the killer bees as of yet, gratefully, thankfully." The aggressive bees were created by a Brazilian breeder who crossed an African strain with domestic honeybees. They've been spreading since escaping from his hives in 1957.

University women take tops off

SANTA CRUZ, California (R) — A group of university co-eds has found a unique way to raise money for a safe sex instruction guide: Topless car washes. About a dozen women, most of them students at the University of California in Santa Cruz, hope to repeat later this summer the topless carwash they held last weekend to raise funds for a calendar that will include instructions on safe sex for lesbians and bisexual women. "It would be nice to have one before the end of the summer before it gets too cold to stand outside topless," said Wendy Van Thiel. Most of the women bared their breasts and charged a minimum of \$5 a pop for the carwashes, raising \$600. Ms. Van Thiel, who says she is bisexual, said that far from pandering to the sexist ogling of male drivers, the women believed taking their tops off was a way of reclaiming their bodies. "We weren't taking off our tops because someone else asked us to, we were doing it because we wanted to, for our cause," Ms. Van Thiel told Reuters. The cause is a calendar that will feature erotic photography and safe sex instructions, she said. Ms. Van Thiel, a university senior at Santa Cruz, said she and her friends hope to hold at least one more topless carwash fund-raiser this summer.

Sports

Date set for Marseille bribes hearing

PARIS (AFP) — The French league's disciplinary commission hearing of the players involved in the Marseille bribes scandal will take place on August 27 and 28, the league said Tuesday.

The commission is charged with deciding on what sporting sanctions are to be imposed on players and officials implicated in the alleged attempt by Olympique Marseille to bribe three Valenciennes players before a match May 20.

Life bans are likely for Jean-Jacques Eybelie, the Marseille midfielder who admits he approached the Valenciennes players with offers of cash if they took it easy during the match and Christophe Robert, the Valenciennes player who has admitted accepting 250,000 francs (\$12,000 dollars).

Jacques Glassman, the Valenciennes player who blew the whistle on the affair, and Jorge Buruchaga, who admits involvement in the scheme but claims he never received any money, will give evidence.

Jean-Pierre Bernes, the Marseille general manager at the time of the affair and alleged orchestrator of the affair, former Valenciennes coach Boro Primorac and Valenciennes chairman Michel Coencas have also been summoned.

Marseille president Bernard Tapie, who Primorac claims asked him to take the blame for the affair, is expected to be summoned later.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Lawyer advises against Lewis lawsuit

BOSTON (AP) — A prominent malpractice lawyer says he was contacted by "friends and business associates" of the late Boston Celtics star Reggie Lewis about a possible lawsuit and advised against it. Bruce Fagel said the suit wouldn't be worth it because Lewis' heirs are financially secure. Lewis had three years remaining on a guaranteed five-year, \$16.5 million contract and the Celtics have said that they will honour the contract. Fagel, a former doctor who specialized in emergency medicine, wouldn't say who contacted him or who they wanted to sue. Lewis, who was 27, died July 27 after collapsing while shooting baskets at Brandeis University. Preliminary autopsy results found he died of a heart condition as he gathered.

Virus threatens Perkins record attempts

MELBOURNE (R) — Olympic champion and dual world record holder Kieren Perkins of Australia may abandon attempts at breaking two world records in the next week after contracting a virus, swimming officials said Tuesday. Australian officials said Perkins, 19, would swim in the Pan Pacific Championships in Kobe, Japan, starting Thursday but he would decide on the day whether to make attempts on the world marks for the 400 metres and 800 metres. Perkins set the 1,500 metres world record of 14 minutes 43.48 seconds in winning at the Barcelona Olympics on July 31 last year and the 800 mark of 7:46.6 in Australia on February 16 last year.

Lightning kills player

BELGRADE (AFP) — One player was killed and 21 others knocked unconscious when lightning struck a village football match at Oragovac, 80km to the west of Belgrade, the Politika newspaper reported Tuesday. The two teams had continued playing as a storm which had broken out in the region did not seem to be heading towards the ground, which was situated at the village's highest point. But just before half-time, the ground was struck by "an incredible force which felled all 22 players," the paper reported. Dragisa Banic, who had two children, was killed instantly.

Shearer aiming for early England recall

LONDON (R) — England striker Alan Shearer has set his sights on playing in the important World Cup qualifier against Poland next month after seven months injured. The Blackburn centre forward, out since January with a knee injury, announced his return to soccer with two goals when he played 11 minutes of a pre-season friendly in Ireland. Shearer said: "I've done a lot of hard work and there is more to come, but I'd like to think I can be ready to play a full game within two or three weeks. And if I'm in the Blackburn team before September 8 when England play Poland at Wembley, I would hope to be involved."

49ers quarterback injured

SAN FRANCISCO (AFP) — Steve Young, American football's highest-paid player, plans to play in San Francisco's season opener Sept. 5 despite a broken left thumb injured in a pre-season game. "There's no way I'll miss any regular season games," Young vowed. Young, who signed a five-year contract last month worth \$26.75 million, suffered a hairline fracture on his throwing hand when it hit the helmet of an onrushing defender in a 27-0 exhibition triumph over the Los Angeles Raiders.

GOREN BRIDGE

WITH OMAR SHARIF & TAMARA HIRSCH
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ONLY FOOLS RUSH IN

North-South vulnerable. North deals.

NORTH
♠ J 8 5
♥ A 2
♦ K Q 5 3
♣ K 10 6 4

EAST
♠ Void
♥ K J 10 7 4
♦ 3 2
♣ Q 9 8 7 5 3

SOUTH
♠ A K Q 10 9 7 2
♥ 9 3
♦ A 7 6
♣ 2

The bidding:
North East South West
1 ♠ 1 ♠ 1 ♠ 2 ♠
2 ♠ Pass 5 ♠ Pass
6 ♠ Pass 6 ♠ Pass

Opening lead: Five of ♣

Don't commit yourself to a line of play until it becomes absolutely necessary. It is surprising what can develop if you delay committing yourself to the very end.

Despite energetic interference by East-West, North-South bid to a slam which they had held the jack of diamonds. South's jump to five spades asked about heart con-

trol, and North's cue-bid showed the ace.

Naturally, West led a heart—the only attack which gave declarer a problem, since that set up a heart trick for the defense before declarer could try to establish the king of clubs for a discard. As a result, it might seem that the only hope was for diamonds to split evenly, so the table's fourth diamond could be used for a discard.

However, if diamonds were going to break early, they would still be distributed 3-3 later in the play. Declarer rose with dummy's ace of hearts and then started running trumps. Six rounds of trumps presented West with no problem—after following three times, a club and two hearts could be discarded safely enough. The last trump, though, was more than West could handle.

Since sluffing a diamond or the ace of clubs would be tantamount to surrender on the spot, West was forced to part with his last heart. Reading the situation perfectly, declarer came down to three diamonds and K 10 of clubs on the table. A club to the ace put West on lead and, since the defender had nothing left but diamonds, declarer took the last four tricks with three diamonds and the king of clubs.

FIFA bans Caniggia

ZURICH (AFP) — Claudio Caniggia, the Argentine winger who was banned by Italy's football authorities last season for cocaine abuse, was excluded from international competition by FIFA Tuesday.

But Caniggia, who played for Roma, may still play in next summer's World Cup finals in the United States. His ban runs until May 9, although the case will be re-examined by FIFA's executive committee.

Football's world governing body also announced a three match ban for Peru's Jorge Soto for assaulting an opponent during the World Cup qualifier against Argentina on August 1.

Soto, who was also fined 5,000 Swiss francs, will miss Peru's qualifying matches against Colombia, Paraguay and Argentina. The Colombian federation was hit with a hefty 100,000-Swiss-franc fine after the national team breached FIFA rules and played friendlies with advertising on their shirts.

Nigeria was fined 20,000 Swiss francs and warned its national stadium could be suspended if security was not improved after crowd trouble during the match against Algeria on July 3.

Algeria was fined 10,000 Swiss francs and threatened with expulsion from the World Cup if there was any repeat of their squad's behaviour in the match against Ivory Coast on July 3.

The Algerians, who lost 1-0 to an injury time goal, surrounded the referee in protest for several minutes. Ivory Coast was fined 10,000 Swiss francs for crowd trouble.

Algeria has also been threatened with expulsion from the African Nations Cup for violent play during a match with Senegal.

Qatar braces for invasion

DOHA (AP) — The tiny Gulf state of Qatar is bracing for an invasion of thousands of soccer fans and more than 500 journalists for the final Asian qualifying round of next summer's World Cup finals.

Worldwide interest in the group has been sparked by the explosive mix of the teams taking part.

Iraq, Saudi Arabia, Iran, North and South Korea as well as Japan make up the group which runs from October 15-28, with the top two teams going through to the finals.

As well as 500 journalists, numerous officials and the squads themselves, around 4,000 Japanese fans want to make the trip to Doha with another couple of thousand from Iran and South Korea.

Spectators from Saudi Arabia will be able to make daily trips from across the border.

Doha's major hotels, with a combined total of around 1,500 rooms, will be overstretched and the problem of where to accommodate people has led the Qatar Football Association to investigate the possibility of hiring ships on a temporary basis to act as floating hotels.

The number of Japanese followers has been sparked by the success of their national team, which won the Asian Cup last year, and by the surge of interest in the sport caused by the recently formed professional J-League.

However, some spectators wanting to travel to the Gulf will be disappointed according to Frits Ahlstrom, a spokesman for the sport's world government body, FIFA.

"It will be impossible to accommodate them all," said Ahlstrom.

FIFA is hoping that attention will focus on the action and not on the political implications of the event, which pitches Iraq against former war enemy Iran as well as Saudi Arabia, which hosted the coalition forces for Operation Desert Storm.

"We hope the media come to seriously analyze the games," said Ahlstrom. "Rivalry on the field will mean intense matches."

Representatives of FIFA and the Asian Football Confederation completed Monday a two-day fact-finding mission in Qatar to check arrangements and facilities.

They insisted security for the tournament was hardly discussed.

Bruno meets Lewis in 1st all-British heavyweight fight

NEW YORK (AP) — Frank Bruno is the most popular boxer in England. On Oct. 1, he'll try to prove he's also the best.

When Bruno meets World Boxing Council champion Lennox Lewis in Wales, it will be the first all-British heavyweight title bout in history.

Bruno, however, doesn't consider Lewis a countryman because the London-born champion moved to Canada when he was 12 and represented Canada when he won the gold medal at the 1988 Olympics.

"He's not British," Bruno said Monday at a "high tea" news conference to hype the bout at Cardiff Arms Park, which is usually used for rugby and soccer matches.

"Nobody cares about Lennox Lewis in England. I'm the one who's famous. I have homes and children and dogs named after me. I even have a flower named after me. Lewis is a nobody. When he flew back to London after getting the title, only four people showed up to greet him."

Lewis, who became WBC champion in December when the organization stripped Riddick Bowe, said he's more British than Bruno.

"I've boxed more British fighters than he has," Lewis said. "He has never even boxed for the British title."

However, if diamonds were going to break early, they would still be distributed 3-3 later in the play. Declarer rose with dummy's ace of hearts and then started running trumps. Six rounds of trumps presented West with no problem—after following three times, a club and two hearts could be discarded safely enough. The last trump, though, was more than West could handle.

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Khaled and the Kenyans to rock Stuttgart

STUTTGART (AFP) — It's not the name of an up-and-coming rock band, but Khaled and the Kenyans are ready to make hearts beat faster at the World Championships here.

The Khaled in question is Morocco's Khaled Skah, the controversial Olympic 10,000m champion, and the Kenyans are the long-distance stars who represent his only major challenge.

Their bitter rivalry has been building ever since the Barcelona Games, when Skah's compatriot Hammou Boutayeb was accused of blocking Richard Chelimo in the final two kilometres. Skah was disqualified and then reinstated.

The question now is whether Skah can stop Kenya from completing another clean sweep at the World Championships.

At Tokyo in 1991, the mighty Kenyans did the long-distance double, with Yobes Ondieki winning the 5,000m and Moses Tanui ending out Chelimo for the 10,000m gold.

Algeria's Noureddine Morceli literally ran away with the 1,500m, ahead of another Kenyan, Wilfred Kirochi.

But Skah, a finisher par excellence, has had a superb 5,000m season in 1993, dominating both Ondieki and Chelimo in Zurich with his hallmark sprint in the final bend.

In Stuttgart, the Moroccan says he will only decide whether to run the 5,000m or 10,000m at the last minute, which means he may yet be in for an Olympic re-match with Chelimo.

The Kenyan long-distance squad, like the Algerian, has meanwhile been thrown into turmoil before the championships with the apparent exit of their two best medal hopes.

Ondieki, who became the first man to run 10,000m in under 27 minutes, will almost certainly miss Stuttgart, and Morceli, the 1,500m world record holder and fastest man this year, is set to do the same.

Both men believe that two-yearly is too often and that the championships have been devalued as a result. What's more, they don't like the fact winners here will not be rewarded in cash but in Mercedes.

Ondieki failed to return for the Kenyan trials and was therefore struck off the Stuttgart list by the Kenyan association, while Morceli announced his personal decision after a superb victory in Zurich.

Ondieki's absence will certainly be a blow, but Chelimo, who broke the 10,000m world record five days before Ondieki shattered it, won't be the star left to fly the Kenyan flag.

Alongside him in the 10,000m will be defending champion Moses Tanui and probably the new world cross country champion, William Siegel.

However, African men will not be allowed to hog all of the spotlight.

Flana Meyer ought to win South Africa's first world championship in the 10,000m as Derartu Tulu, the Ethiopian who edged her out of a gold medal on a memorable evening in Barcelona, will not be in Stuttgart.

Tulu, injured earlier in the season, was not included in the Ethiopian team list. There will therefore be no re-run of their symbolic lap of honour at the Olympics, when the two athletes seemed to bury South Africa's apartheid past.

Algeria's Hassiba Boulmerka, the reigning world and Olympic 1,500m champion, has been entered for both her favourite distance and the 3,000m.

Boulmerka made history in Tokyo two years ago by becoming the first African woman to win a world title and followed that with Algeria's first ever Olympic gold in Barcelona.

She has not been so fortunate in 1993, bungling her 1,500m at the Mediterranean Games after leaving the competition stranded, and then being outperformed by Russian Lyubov Kremlyova in Stockholm.

However, the Algerian is almost certain to come away with a

medal or two, the only doubt concerning the colour.

A more solid bet for gold though is Maria Mutola in the 800m. The Mozambican is the current world indoor champion, the fastest woman this year over the distance and the African Champion to boot.

Latecomer Christie is the man to beat

Linford Christie is on the verge of making athletics history here next week, in the latest instalment of the British latecomer's remarkable career.

The 100m veteran wants to become the first man to hold the Olympic, world, European and Commonwealth titles at the same time — and the form book is backing him to the hilt.

Like a fine wine, Christie has been getting better as he gets older, and it would be a tribute to sheer determination if his 33-year-old legs carry him first across the finishing line here.

Born in Jamaica, Christie's first major victory came in the 1986 European Championships as a 26-year-old, ironically also in Stuttgart. He repeated that feat in 1990, adding the Commonwealth gold in the same year.

Yet, his greatest moment was yet to come.

In Barcelona, he streaked home to win the Olympic crown in the furnace of the Montjuic Stadium, achieving instant fame at an age when many sprinters have long hung up their spikes.

Critics however wasted no time laying into the tall Thames Valley Harrier.

First they devalued his medal because of the absence of "King" Carl Lewis and then, in the make of three consecutive defeats to Wigfria's Olapade Abeniken, they claimed Barcelona was just a flash in the pan.

Fortunately for the Christie fan club, those critics have since been silenced by their man's sparkling form in 1993.

Denied a place in the indoor championships in Toronto by a back injury, Christie clocked up a string of eight victories this season, including the 150,000-dollars-a-man showdown with Lewis at Gateshead.

The winning run came to an end with a second place in Zurich, but there were still three good reasons for optimism afterwards.

The man who won, Leroy Burrell, won't be in the 100m at Stuttgart after coming fifth in the U.S. trials, danger man Lewis was left struggling in fourth place and Christie turned in his best time of the year with a 10.03.

The straight-talking Briton has fully justified the bold predictions he made back in February.

"A lot of the guys will be for a shock when they see me this summer," he said. "I'm running a lot quicker over the first 30 metres and that's where my improvement can come this year."

And he had been equally confident about his Gateshead battle with the world's fastest man and probably greatest athlete.

"There will only be winner and it won't be Carl Lewis," he predicted.

"I respect him as a great athlete — I won't be able to get eight Olympic golds. But now is my time. I'm in the best shape of my life and I'm ready for him."

And that is his prediction for Stuttgart?

"I'm getting stronger all the time," he announced in Zurich. "Don't put your money on anyone else for the World Championships. I am going to win the gold medal there."

So far, Christie has been true to his word. And there are a lot of British bookmakers, patriotic or not, who believe he is going to keep it.

Morocco's Aynaoui advances to 2nd round

SAN MARINO (Agencies) — Cislav Dosedel upset eighth-seeded Marcelo Filippini in straight sets in the opening day of the San Marino ATP clay court tournament.

The unseeded Czech player defeated his Uruguayan opponent 6-4, 6-4.

In another first-round match, seventh-seeded Younes Al Aynaoui of Morocco downed Roberto Azar of Argentina 6-3, 6-4 and next will face Claudio Mezzadri of Switzerland. Mezzadri defeated another Argentine, Martin Jaito, 6-4, 6-2.

Unseeded Spaniard Jose Altur defeated Martin Srebnik of the Czech Republic 6-0, 6-3; Franco Davia of Argentina beat Jose Cuhna Silva of Portugal 7-5, 6-1, and Horst Skoff of Austria defeated Sergio Cortes of Chile 6-3, 6-2.

Top-seeded Thomas Muster of Austria, winner of the Kitzbuehl tournament on Sunday, begins plays his first match in San Marino on when he takes on Belgian Bart Wuyts.

Guillemo Perez Roldan of Argentina, the No. 3 seed who's seeking his third victory of the tournament in this tiny indepen-

dent republic, will play Filip De Wulf.

Maleeva dumped at Slims of Los Angeles: In Manhattan Beach, Rosalyn Nideffer of South Africa used an aggressive serve and volley game to dump ninth seed Katerina Maleeva of Bulgaria in the first round of the \$375,000 Virginia Slims of Los Angeles Monday.

Nideffer refused to play

of France scored a surprisingly easy 6-2, 6-2 win over American Robin White in other opening day play.

Top seed Arantxa Sanchez Vicario, second-seeded defending champion Martina Navratilova and third seed Gabriela Sabatini received first round byes along with the rest of the top eight seeds in the 56-player, hard-court tournament.

Perforers loses: Mikael Pernfors, unsettled by his recent victory at the Canadian Open, lost 6-4, 6-2 Monday to Maliva Washington on a quiet opening day at the ATP Championship.

Washington, the No. 15 seed, played aggressive tennis and was never in trouble against Pernfors, who was looking to build on his surprising victory in Montreal a week ago.

"I still had a little bit of trouble concentrating," the 30-year-old Swede said. "I was thinking about what happened."

The top eight seeds had first-round byes in the \$1.65 million tournament.



Morocco's Younes Al Aynaoui slams a double-handed return to his opponent (AFP photo)

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U.N. staff and soldiers walk off a helicopter that transported them from UNOSOM headquarters in Mogadishu to the airport Tuesday as the U.N. has stopped most road travel of its staff in the Somali capital since Sunday's land mine that killed four U.S. soldiers (AFP photo)

Killings of American soldiers draw U.S. deeper into Somalia

By Carol Giacomo
Reuter

WASHINGTON — With the killing of four American soldiers and President Bill Clinton's vow to respond, the United States is being drawn deeper into the Somalia quagmire.

Sunday's attack — an ambush with a landmine by Somali gunmen believed to be allied with fugitive warlord Mohammed Farah Aided — cost U.S. troops their heaviest loss since they arrived in Somalia eight months ago.

Congressmen said it would prompt new and wider debate over U.S. and United Nations roles in modern-day peacekeeping.

State Department spokesman Mike McCurry agreed the deaths would make the U.S. reassess its role in Somalia.

But he insisted Washington was determined to continue its efforts to bring stability to that African country. He described the mission as an important precedent for the future and stressed the need for "getting it right."

Retaliation seemed certain with Mr. Clinton pledging Sunday that: "We will do everything possible to find out who was responsible and take appropriate action."

Former President George Bush sent U.S. forces to Somalia last December to prevent the starvation of hundreds of thousands of civilians who were the victims of famine and civil war.

Many experts think he was forced to act in part to blunt criticism that the United

States and its Western allies had done little to help Bosnian Muslims who were losing their civil war against Serbs and Croats.

Somalia was seen as a narrowly defined task from which the United States could quickly disengage once it was done.

But the troops moved from ensuring the safe delivery of relief supplies to disarming rival warlords, attempting to bring stability to a country with no functioning government and to trying to capture the warlord deemed the most disruptive, Gen. Aided, and punish him for increasing attacks on U.N. forces.

NEWS ANALYSIS

Although this approach was endorsed by the U.N. Security Council, the United Nations — which took over command of the mission from Washington in June — and the United States have been criticised for relying too much on U.S. air attacks, risking civilians and leaving gunmen free to roam the streets.

Despite this, a total of 39 U.N. peacekeepers have been killed in Somalia in just over two months including 24 Pakistanis ambushed and killed on June 5.

Republican Senate minority leader Bob Dole — who has argued unsuccessfully for U.S. military action in Bosnia — now says it "may be close" to time to withdraw U.S. troops.

"I hate to give up on this mission, but it seems to me... I think it's time to reassess it," he told NBC Television

on Sunday.

House of Representatives Speaker Thomas Foley, a Democrat, took the opposite tack, arguing that "we need to step up the efforts to find Aided and to neutralise his forces. We shouldn't, I agree, allow this kind of cat-and-mouse game to go on in which Americans take casualties and Aided escapes capture."

Republican Senator William Cohen of Maine also stressed the need for strong U.N. action.

"This really is a defining role for the United Nations in the post-cold war world in which we live. Either the United Nations is going to step up to the plate and assume a major responsibility for dealing with these types of issues or it should close its doors. It has no other mission in the future if it simply walks away," he told the same CNN programme.

Mr. Foley rejected the inevitable questions about parallels between Somalia, which began as a limited operation, and has mushroomed, and Vietnam.

"We don't have anything like a Vietnam situation here. Vietnam, you had huge armies in the north, hundreds and hundreds of thousands of people under arms. This is not a situation comparable," he said.

Many lawmakers and analysts argue that despite the mistakes that have been made in Somalia, the U.S. and U.N. actions there have saved many lives but lessons will have to be learned so these errors are not repeated in future missions.

Jordan streamlines handling of applications for U.N. permission for exports to Iraq

By a Jordan Times
Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The setting up of a special office at the Ministry of Finance and Customs to handle applications for U.N. permissions for exports to Iraq is aimed clearing confusion among business circles and maintaining a clear-cut, open-door approach to the sanctions against Iraq, officials said Tuesday.

The establishment of the office also comes in line with Jordan's efforts to reinforce its enforcement of the international sanctions imposed against Iraq following its August 1990 invasion of Kuwait, they said.

There was no clear indication that setting up of a sole authority to deal with permissions for exports to Iraq was part of American-inspired U.N. measures that Jordan has to undertake to regulate the flow of goods to Iraq.

Washington, which accused Jordan of allowing "seepage" of contraband goods into Iraq in 1992, now says that it is satisfied with the measures undertaken by the Kingdom to enforce the sanctions.

U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher, visiting Amman last week, appeared to go out of his way to emphasise the point when he told reporters after meeting with His Majesty the King that he thanked the King "for the effective enforcement (of the sanctions)."

The new office at the Ministry of Finance and Customs, set

up early this month, will accept all applications for permissions for Iraq-bound goods and forward them to the Jordan's permanent representative to the U.N. In turn the U.N. envoy will forward the documents to the U.N. Sanctions Committee, which has the sole authority for approving or turning down applications.

"All applications for exports to Iraq of goods exempted under Article 20 of Resolution 587 will be handled by the office," said an official source. "But the office has no direct or indirect role in securing or refusing permission; it will act only as a clearing house."

The sanctions were imposed under U.N. Security Council Resolution 661, issued immediately after the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait on Aug. 2, 1990. The resolution imposed a sweeping embargo on all trade with Iraq with no explicit or implicit exemptions.

Resolution 687, issued in April 1991 after an American-led Western-Arab military coalition ended Iraq's occupation of Kuwait, exempted food and medicine as well as immediately related items.

An advertisement released by the Ministry of Finance and Customs spelled out the basic responsibilities and tasks of the new office that will handle applications for U.N. permissions for exports to Iraq.

"The office will receive applications from those wishing to export goods to Iraq that are (exempted from the sanc-

tions)," it said.

All applications will be forwarded to the Jordanian representative's office at the U.N. in New York in one week of their receipt. In turn, the representative will present the applications to the U.N. Sanctions Committee for approval/rejection.

The response of the committee will be received by the representative's office and forwarded to the new office at the Ministry of Finance and Customs, which will in turn contact the applicants by phone, facsimile or mail, the advertisement said.

"The role of the office is limited to forwarding the applications to the permanent representative at the U.N. and receiving and issuing the permissions or rejections, to the concerned parties," it emphasised, adding that the office's services are offered free of cost.

In a clear bid to preempt the Kingdom's U.N. representative's office being flooded with follow-up inquiries, the advertisement said that "all further contacts during the period of applications are the responsibility of the office" at the Ministry of Finance and Customs.

"No applications for goods that are not exempted under Article 20 of Resolution 687 will be entertained," said the official source.

"There has been a lot of confusion over who is responsible for what," with potential exporters approaching the Foreign Ministry and Jordan's U.N. office directly for permis-

sion. "The office at the Ministry of Finance and Customs is the sole authority which is empowered to deal with the applications for U.N. permissions," affirmed the source.

According to local business circles, there had been repeated efforts by some to forge documents and try to get banned goods across the border but these were thwarted.

"One of the main items included in such efforts was automobile tyres, which fetch up to 300 per cent profit in the Iraqi market," said another source. "Article 20 does not exempt automobile tyres per se, although there is a provision in it which excludes items immediately related to the distribution of food and medicine."

"It is one of the ironies of the sanctions," said the source. "People need to have tyres for their vehicles to get around and distribute food and medicine, and as such they should be exempt from the sanctions. That is not the case."

Similarly, said the source, there are hundreds of items that the Iraqi people need and which could be classified as exempted from the sanctions since they involve, directly or indirectly, food needs.

"For instance, they need water pumps, agricultural implements, including tractors, but it is next to impossible to get the sanctions committee to grant approval for such items," he pointed out.

Mogadishu tense in anticipation of U.S. strike

Combined agency dispatches

MOGADISHU — An eerie calm pervaded over Mogadishu amid tension Tuesday in anticipation of a U.S. retaliatory strike for the killing of four American soldiers serving with the U.N. peace mission in Somalia.

Movie theatres and stores shut down in the Somali capital and the streets were deserted and calm save for some flares followed by several explosions.

U.N. helicopter patrols could be heard clattering over the city in search of militants loyal to fugitive Somali warlord Mohammed Farah Aided.

General Aided has been held responsible for Sunday's killing of the four American soldiers who died when their jeep was blown apart as it was travelling in convoy through the district of Medina, the scene of several clashes with Aided supporters.

The explosion is believed to have been caused by a remote-controlled device.

A spokesman for Gen. Aided

denied Monday that the warlord was responsible for the blast.

U.N. forces closed an airfield Tuesday that they said a main weapons supply route for Gen. Aided.

Thousands of leaflets dropped by U.N. planes said the K-50 airfield 50 kilometres west of Mogadishu was shut down indefinitely. The action would stop money, weapons and other supplies from reaching Gen. Aided.

It appeared to be the first step towards a military crackdown on Gen. Aided.

U.N. military spokesman in Somalia, U.S. Army Major David Stockwell, told reporters the closure was aimed at blocking arms supplies to Gen. Aided and the lucrative trade in qat, a stimulant leaf imported from Kenya and chewed by many Somalis.

"Planes land at K-50 with guns and qat destined to Mogadishu," Maj. Stockwell said. "This is targeted towards the Aided faction."

Maj. Stockwell said a second

airstrip known as Abusair and near K-50, would also be shut down. He conceded the move would not completely stop the flow of weapons and qat but said Tuesday's measures would make it more difficult for the Aided militia.

Mogadishu residents waited nervously for the promised military action.

"People are afraid of American retaliation. People are afraid of helicopters coming to bomb them," Mohammed Sheikh, a street vendor, told Reuters.

Another Somali, Ali Mussa, said American retaliation would only serve to alienate Somalis — many of whom already see the Americans as an occupation force.

"People will think that the U.S. is no better than Gen. Aided," Mr. Mussa said.

The United States linked Gen. Aided to the slaying of four American soldiers and said he must be "removed from the equation" in the African country.

David Shinn, special U.S.

coordinator for Somalia, said the four soldiers were killed by a remote-controlled bomb, not a mine blast as originally thought. This suggests they were killed in an ambush and not the victims of random violence.

Mr. Shinn, in a Washington news conference, said the United States was "reasonably confident" the attack was initiated by Gen. Aided, though involvement by an allied group could not be ruled out.

"I think it is very important that he be removed from the equation," Mr. Shinn said. One way would be to arrest Gen. Aided in the killing of 24 Pakistani peacekeepers in June, he said, but the clan leader has gone into hiding.

U.N. commanders Monday decided to cut back ground missions by their troops through Mogadishu in the wake of the attack which raised to 40 the number of U.N. troops that have died in Somalia since the May 4 hand-over of the operation to the U.N. from a U.S.-led coalition.

4 deputies launch push against House dissolution

(Continued from page 1)

"That the government has breached the ministers' oath to defend and protect the Constitution."

"The lack of democratic mentality in the government, which has failed to co-exist with Parliament, which was in recess, and resorted to dissolving Parliament to pave the ground for creating circumstances to bring in a parliament of the kind that it can live with."

"Fifth: What has taken place is not the first or the only infringement on democracy since:

(i) The present government did not win Parliament's vote of confidence. All previous governments since 1984 did win votes of confidence from Parliament even by calling Parliament from recess and when martial law was still in force.

(ii) This government, which has not won Parliament's confidence, resorted to dissolving Parliament, which is constitutionally empowered to legitimise or vote down the government.

(iii) The government has broken all traditions and this calls for its resignation because its impartiality is under question.

"For this reason, we can see that democracy is exposed to infringement by the government, which has no legitimate ground to rule as it lacks legitimacy that should be granted by the people."

"It seems to us that the political as well as the social and economic situations are targeted so as to retreat to the state that preceded the 1989 elections, with the only difference that the country has a shade of a parliamentary institution legitimising the government's mandatory decisions."

"For this reason, we the undersigned condemn the government's decision to dissolve Parlia-

ment and deplore the official information policy, which does not suffice itself with misleading the public but also goes a step further by stifling other people's opinions."

"The undersigned warn against the government's mandatory policies and demand that they be halted immediately. We also demand that the government refrain from taking the undemocratic and unconstitutional move — a dangerous move — of amending the Election Law or introducing a temporary election law in violation of the provisions of the Constitution."

Nabulsi quashes rumours that dinar will be devalued

(Continued from page 1)

expected the whole deal to be completed before the end of this year.

Dr. Nabulsi said the agreement in principle for rescheduling covers \$740 million in principal and \$150 million in interest.

"Jordan plans to convert these debts into nominal bonds or discount bonds to be paid over 30 years and buy back

part of the debts," he said. Any agreement on the bonds will be guaranteed by Jordanian holdings in American treasury bonds, he said.

The CBJ expects to buy bonds worth \$80 million at the going interest rate, and the total amount of interest to be paid on them will be between \$40 million and \$50 million.

Referring to the economic restructuring programme agreed with the World Bank, Dr. Nabulsi said that one

phase of the programme was extended until February 1994 because certain measures, like the imposition of the sales tax, have not been taken yet.

The new government, Dr. Nabulsi denied that he intended to resign.

"I have not expressed a desire to resign my post," he said. "But I expressed my desire to move away from the atmosphere of work after May 1994, when my mandate ends for purely health reasons because I need some rest."

credit regulations.

He said the CBJ was holding dialogues with the commercial banks and helping them to wisely invest their deposits.

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PLO officials say dispute over strategy is resolved

(Continued from page 1)

West Bank and Gaza Strip. The second is whether the Palestinians made too big a concession to Israel and the United States by giving Mr. Christopher the document, which in effect was a response to a U.S. paper on Palestinian self-rule that Palestinian negotiators had previously totally rejected.

The third issue is whether the Palestinians should now abandon the fruitless peace talks on a five-year interim period of self-rule and insist on immediate negotiations with Israel on a final settlement.

The Palestinians have always insisted that the PLO must be

involved in final settlement talks. But an increasingly open dialogue between Israeli ministers and PLO officials has made this a real possibility.

The Palestinian Trade Unions Federation, run by a senior member of Fatah, demanded on Tuesday that the Palestinians should suspend all talks with Israel because the draft given to Mr. Christopher made too many concessions.

A senior PLO official, Sulaiman Najib of the Palestinian People's Party, told Reuters that the talks on interim self-rule should be abandoned in favour of immediate negotiations on a final

settlement. The disagreements have been building for months.

Mr. Arafat had to argue all night in April to persuade his negotiators to resume the peace talks in Washington after a four-month suspension caused by Israel's expulsion of 400 Palestinians to South Lebanon.

The negotiators, facing rising hostility to the peace process among the Palestinians in the occupied territories, said Israel had failed to meet their conditions for resuming talks. Mr. Arafat told them they had no alterna-

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COLUMN

Ancient wine goblets unearthed in Oman

MUSCAT, Oman (AP)

American archaeologist Monday reported the discovery of fragments of 2,400-year-old Greek wine goblets in the southern province of Dhofar. Juris Zarins of the southwest Missouri State University said the discovery indicated the extent of Greek influence in the Arabian peninsula during the Hellenistic period, around the 4th century B.C. The pieces of polished black pottery were unearthed during a two-month excavation at the site of the ancient Saffara Metropolis at Ain Hamran, 25 kilometres (16 miles) east of the Dhofar provincial capital Salalah. "It's really great because we are opening up Dhofar's history," Mr. Zarins told the Associated Press as he departed for the United States. Mr. Zarins said the excavations further supported the theory that Saffara was a coastal "twin city" of Ubar, the fabled frankincense city. Ruins of what is believed to be Ubar were recently found with the help of radar photography from the U.S. space shuttle at Shisr, about 140 kilometres (90 miles) to the north of the fringe of the empty quarter, the vast desert region spanning the border with Saudi Arabia. Mr. Zarins believes the wealthy and leisured citizens of Ubar controlled routes to the interior, and probably also dominated the coastal area. Archaeologists estimate Ubar's heyday occurred between 1000 B.C. and 300-400 A.D.

Woman gives birth to twins 3 weeks apart

MORRISTOWN, New Jersey (AP)

A woman has given birth to twin boys nearly three weeks apart in the first case of its kind in 40 years, doctors reported. Gerri Horn, 46, gave birth to Spencer Cameron Horn on July 14 at Morristown Memorial Hospital. Born at 25 weeks, he weighed just one pound, four ounces (0.56 kilograms), Dr. Jennifer Jackson said. Dr. Jackson decided to delay the pregnancy as long as possible in hope of increasing the second twin's odds of survival. Whitley Blaine Horn was delivered Aug. 2, weighing three pounds. Medical records list only 21 such cases of delayed pregnancy since 1880, the last in 1953.

Alleged 'madam' to stars' pleads not guilty

LOS ANGELES (R)

Hollywood's reputed "madam to the stars" pleaded not guilty to charges that she ran a high-priced call girl ring alleged to have catered to celebrities and show-business executives. The wide-ranging scandal centring on 27-year-old Heidi Fleiss has captivated the entertainment world in recent weeks, sending prominent Hollywood figures scrambling to distance themselves from the lurid tales of sex for hire. Ms. Fleiss, the daughter of a Los Angeles paediatrician, wore a skimpy taupe-coloured dress, spiked black heels and a thick gold chain for her arraignment. She remained free on bail.

Noose tightening around India's most wanted outlaw

NEW DELHI (AFP)

The noose is tightening around India's most wanted outlaw as hundreds of elite commandos stalk the southern jungles for the "man sought for more than 80 murders, elephant poaching and sandalwood smuggling. The notorious Veerappan, who carried a four-million-rupee (\$132,000) reward on his head, is becoming increasingly desperate as the police military forces close in on him, according to the police in Tamil Nadu state. Last month, Veerappan strangled his 22-year-old daughter because the infant was slowing down the gang as it crept from hideout to hideout, police said, and a revolt may be brewing against the outlaw.

Teen with crossbow holds class hostage

JOHANNESBURG, South Africa (AP)

A 16-year-old girl carrying a crossbow and handcuffs and wearing a camouflage uniform briefly held classmates hostage citing anger over damage to the environment. The girl surrendered after the headmistress of Parktown Girls High School, Di Van Zyl, said she too was an environmentalist and persuaded the student to hand over the weapon, police and school officials said. No one was injured.

Doha says Gulf arms venture with Egypt under liquidation

DOHA (Agencies) — Qatar says a joint Gulf arms venture with Egypt is being liquidated, dashing hopes for revival of the company despite improvement in relations between Cairo and the oil-rich region.

The Cairo-based Arab Organisation for Industrialisation (AOI), the biggest joint arms venture in the region, is "under liquidation," the official Qatari News Agency (QNA) quoted a responsible source at the Defence Ministry as saying.

The source was reacting to what he called reports by the British helicopter company Westland that it won a claim for a compensation of \$385 million (\$575 million) from Qatar, Saudi Arabia, and the United Arab Emirates (UAE) for quitting the organisation.

UAE military sources said Westland owned shares and was an adviser to the AOI before the three Gulf states walked out in 1979 in protest at Cairo's peace treaty with Israel.

"Water will appeal against the sentence with all available local means. It also opposes any measures to be taken by Westland in this respect," the Qatari source said but did not say when and where the sentence was issued.

"The international arbitration court has no authority over the three countries and its sentence will not bind them to pay the sum decided by the court in favour of Westland," the source added.

He gave no details of the case but his comments were in contrast with optimistic Egyptian statements that the AOI would be revived following contacts between Cairo and the three Gulf members.

Kurdish rebels free French tourists

ANKARA (Agencies)

Four French hostages were released unharmed by separatist Turkish Kurdish rebels after two weeks in captivity, the Interior Ministry said Tuesday.

The hostages were released Monday night in the southeastern province of Van, 1,250 kilometres southeast of Ankara.

The French tourists were identified as Pierre Fix, 42, Michel Courduy, 40, Robert Haudouin, 51, and Fernand Hanon, 66.

"Finally, we are free. We are tired, but it is not important," Mr. Courduy told the Associated Press in a telephone interview from his hotel room in Van, where the four were taken.

A French embassy official said the hostages had not been harmed and were in good health, although there were some psychological scars.

The Courduy said the men were made to walk Monday evening, and then driven in a van and released near the village of Koruklu where they were abducted. They were offered a ride by a truck driver and then discovered at a checkpoint.

The four French tourists were kidnapped in southeastern Turkey by the guerrillas of the Kurdish Labour Party fighting for self-rule since 1984 in the area bordering Iran, Iraq and Syria.

Mr. Courduy said they had been made to wander in the mountains for the past two weeks as guerrillas apparently tried to throw off security forces.

"We were walking throughout the night, changing our location constantly, then trying to sleep after sunrise," he added.

Mr. Courduy said that throughout their ordeal, government helicopters were flying over their hideouts in an attempt to find them.

"We were treated fine but, it was not an easy ordeal," he added.